



SUGAR VALLEY RURAL CHARTER SCHOOL

236 East Main Street • Loganton, PA 17747

phone: (570)725-7822 • fax: (570)725-7825

web: www.svracs.org • email: svracs@svracs.org • twitter: @svracs

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In 2018, Act 158 was signed into law outlining state graduation requirements and the ways in which Keystone Exams factor into these requirements. State graduation requirements are effective for students in the Classes of 2023 and beyond. In order to graduate from high school, students must meet all local graduation requirements related to credits and coursework along with the state requirements outlined in Act 158. Students must meet **one of Pennsylvania's five pathways** outlined below to earn a diploma and demonstrate career and/or college readiness. More information regarding Pennsylvania's state graduation requirements can be found on the PDE website at <https://pdesas.org/Frameworks/DCEToolKit/Act158PathwaysTo-GraduationToolkit>.

Pathway 1: Keystone Proficiency Pathway: Scoring proficient or advanced on each of the Keystone Exams - Algebra I, Literature, and Biology.

Pathway 2: Keystone Composite Pathway: Earning a satisfactory composite score (4452) on the Algebra I, Literature, and Biology (while achieving a score of proficient on at least one of the three exams AND no less than a score of basic on the remaining two exams).

Pathway 3: Alternative Assessment Pathway: Earning a passing grade in the courses associated with each of the Keystone Exams on which a score of proficiency was not achieved AND satisfactorily **completing ONE** of the following: Attainment of an established score on one of the following approved alternative assessment: ● SAT (Score of 1010) ● PSAT (Score of 970) ● - ACT - composite score of 21 ● NCRC (National Career Readiness Certificate) - Gold Level* OR - ASVAB [Armed Forces Qualifying Test (AFQT)] - composite score of 31 ● Attainment of Gold Level on the ACT WorkKeys Assessment; ● Advanced Placement Test (Attainment of a 3 or higher on an in the content area associated with each Keystone Exam in which a score of proficiency was not achieved. ● Dual Enrollment Courses (Successful completion of a dual enrollment course in the content area associated with each Keystone Exam in which a score of proficiency was not achieved. ● Successful completion of a pre-apprenticeship program; ● Acceptance in an accredited 4-year nonprofit institution of higher education and evidence of the ability to enroll in college-level coursework. (i.e. letter of acceptance, placement test results, college registration form, etc.)

Pathway 4: Evidence Based Pathway: Earning a passing grade in the courses associated with each of the Keystone Exams on which a score of proficiency was not achieved AND demonstrating **THREE pieces of evidence** consistent with goals and career plans.

Including **ONE** of the following pieces of evidence: ● Attainment of Silver Level on the ACT WorkKeys Assessment ● Attainment of a 630 on an SAT Subject Test; ● Attainment of a 3 on an Advanced Placement test; ● Acceptance to an accredited nonprofit institution of higher education other than a 4-year institution and evidence of the ability to enroll in college level coursework; (i.e. letter of acceptance, placement test results, college registration form, etc.) ● Attainment of an industry-recognized credential; ● Successful completion of a concurrent enrollment or postsecondary course.

Including **TWO** of the following pieces of evidence: ● Satisfactory completion of a service learning project. Project proposals must be presented in writing to an administrator for pre-approval. The proposal should include goals, activities, and contributions to the community. Projects must be supervised by an adult and completion must be verified in writing. ● Attainment of proficiency or advanced on a Keystone Exam; ● A letter from an employer guaranteeing full-time employment; ● A certificate of successful completion of an internship or cooperative education program; ● Satisfactory compliance with the NCAA's core course for college-bound student athletes with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0.

Pathway 5: Career and Technical Education Pathway: Earning a passing grade in the courses associated with each of the Keystone Exams on which a score of proficiency was not achieved AND one of the following: Attaining of an industry-based competency certification related to the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Concentrator's program of study. Demonstrating a high likelihood of success on an approved industry-based competency assessment. (National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) or the National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS)

SVRCS Administration and Teaching staff will work with students in the near future to develop a plan to help students successfully navigate these new state-wide graduation requirements. If you have any questions about these requirements, please contact Secondary Administrator Brian Stugart at the school.

Sincerely,

Tracie Kennedy, SVRCS CEO