

## **Keystone Exam Assessment Update**

**Target Audience:** Students enrolled in the 2019-2020 Spring Keystone Exams

The United States Department of Education granted assessment and accountability waivers to all fifty states in Spring 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In response, the Pennsylvania Department of Education's assessment and accountability waiver then established a cohort of students who were enrolled in the Keystone "trigger-course" in the 2019-2020 school year. A PDE "trigger course" is defined as a core academic class which qualifies a student to take a Keystone Exam. The waiver states that any student who was enrolled in Keystone courses, who passed the academic course, and who were "first-time" test takers last school year, are to be exempted from any accountability measure for that/those Keystone subject areas.

**Algebra I:** Algebra I, Algebra IB, LS Applied Algebra IB, ES Math 11, Functional Math 11

**Literature:** English 10, Honors American Literature 10, Applied English 10, Functional English 10, LS English 10, ES English 10

**Biology:** Biology, LS Biology, Functional Science 11, ES Science 11

In tandem with the 2019-2020 assessment waiver, Act 136 of 2020 also provides students who passed the Keystone course requirement in the school year 2019-2020 with a non-numerical PROFICIENT score on the related Keystone Exam(s) for the purpose of state and local graduation requirements.

**So, what does that actually mean for your child?** If your child meets all three of the listed criteria requirements below, then they do not need to "make-up" their Keystone Exam that they were slated to take in Spring 2020.

- 1.) Student was enrolled in a Keystone "trigger" course in the 2019-2020 school year; **AND**
- 2.) Student was a first-time test taker; **AND**
- 3.) Student passed the corresponding local Keystone course in 2019-2020

If **ALL** three criteria are met, then your child received a non-numerical PROFICIENT score for that related Keystone exam(s) for the purposes of state and local graduation requirements.

If a student did **not** meet **ALL** three of the above listed criteria, then your child will be enrolled to take the appropriate subject related Keystone Exam during one of the state-issued future Keystone Exam testing windows.

Please know that the Jim Thorpe Area School District takes your child's assessment requirements with utmost consideration and will make every effort to keep you informed with the latest information as it is provided to us from the state level.