

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1315 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY GLEIM, STRUZZI, RYAN, ISAACSON, MALONEY, MURT, ZIMMERMAN, PYLE, JAMES, FEE, MACKENZIE, BERNSTINE, KAUFFMAN, MENTZER, NEILSON, ECKER, PICKETT, MILLARD, LAWRENCE, SCHLEGEL CULVER, KEEFER AND HERSHEY, APRIL 25, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, APRIL 25, 2019

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," in preliminary provisions, further
6 providing for Keystone Exams and graduation requirements.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Section 121(c)(2), (c.1)(3)(i)(D) and (d) of the
10 act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public
11 School Code of 1949, amended or added October 24, 2018
12 (P.L.1146, No.158), are amended and the section is amended by
13 adding a subsection to read:

14 Section 121. Keystone Exams and Graduation Requirements.--*

15 * *

16 (c) Notwithstanding section 2604-B(b)(2)(v), 22 Pa. Code §
17 4.24 or 4.51 or any statute or regulation to the contrary, in
18 any school year in which a demonstration of proficiency on a
19 Keystone Exam is required for high school graduation, a CTE

1 Concentrator shall be deemed proficient provided that the CTE
2 Concentrator shall meet all of the following requirements:

3 * * *

4 (2) completes one of the following:

5 (i) attains an [industry-based competency certification]
6 industry-recognized credential related to the CTE Concentrator's
7 program of study; or

8 (ii) demonstrates a high likelihood of success on an
9 approved [industry-based competency assessment] industry-
10 recognized credential or readiness for continued meaningful
11 engagement in the CTE Concentrator's program of study as
12 demonstrated by performance on benchmark assessments, course
13 grades and other factors consistent with the CTE Concentrator's
14 goals and career plan and determined for the CTE Concentrator by
15 a chief school administrator in consultation with an area
16 vocational-technical school director or principal of a
17 comprehensive high school. The determination shall be made no
18 later than the end of eleventh grade, or, for a student enrolled
19 in a one-year program, the end of the first semester of twelfth
20 grade.

21 (c.1) Notwithstanding section 2604-B(b)(2)(v), 22 Pa. Code §
22 4.24, 4.51 or 4.51c or any statute or regulation to the
23 contrary, in any school year in which a demonstration of
24 proficiency on a Keystone Exam is required for high school
25 graduation, a student shall be deemed proficient if the student
26 demonstrates one of the following:

27 * * *

28 (3) Successful completion of locally established, grade-
29 based requirements for academic content areas associated with
30 each Keystone Exam on which the student did not achieve at least

1 a proficient score and demonstration of three pieces of evidence
2 that reflect readiness for meaningful postsecondary engagement
3 consistent with the student's goals and career plan, which shall
4 include:

5 (i) One of the following:

6 * * *

7 (D) Attainment of an industry-recognized credential[, as
8 identified in the industry credential resource book or in the
9 industry-based learning guidelines compiled by the department].

10 * * *

11 (c.9a) No later than the beginning of the 2020-2021 school
12 year, an industry-recognized credential attained by a student
13 shall be included on the student's transcript.

14 * * *

15 (d) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
16 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless
17 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

18 "Accredited four-year nonprofit institution of higher
19 education." Any of the following:

20 (1) A university within the State System of Higher Education
21 under Article XX-A.

22 (2) A State-related institution as defined in section 1502-
23 A.

24 (3) Any accredited nonprofit public, private or independent
25 college or university that confers four-year baccalaureate
26 degrees.

27 "Accredited nonprofit institution of higher education." Any
28 of the following:

29 (1) A community college operating under Article XIX-A.

30 (2) An accredited four-year nonprofit institution of higher

1 education.

2 (3) Any accredited nonprofit public, private or independent
3 college or university.

4 (4) The Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology.

5 "ACT." A standardized test for the assessment of college
6 readiness administered by ACT.

7 "ACT WorkKeys assessment." An assessment of workplace skills
8 administered by ACT.

9 "Advanced Placement Program." A program authorized by the
10 college board that allows a student to study college-level
11 subjects while enrolled in high school and to receive advanced
12 placement and college credit for earning a qualified score on
13 the course-related Advanced Placement exam.

14 "Approved alternative assessment." A SAT, PSAT, ACT or Armed
15 Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test.

16 "Approved industry-based competency assessment." A NOCTI
17 exam, NIMS assessment or other industry-based competency
18 assessment identified by the Secretary of Education and approved
19 by the State Board of Education or identified by an act of the
20 General Assembly.

21 "Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test." The
22 aptitude test developed and maintained by the United States
23 Department of Defense.

24 "Chief school administrator." The superintendent of a school
25 district, executive director of an intermediate unit,
26 administrative director of an area vocational-technical school
27 or chief executive officer of a charter school, cyber charter
28 school, regional charter school or multiple charter school
29 organization.

30 "Concurrent enrollment course." A course in which a

1 secondary student is enrolled and, upon successful completion of
2 which both high school and postsecondary credit are earned.

3 "Cooperative education program." A program of instruction
4 whereby students alternate or coordinate their high school
5 studies with a job in a field related to their academic or
6 career objectives.

7 "CTE Concentrator." A student under Article XVIII who, by
8 the end of a reporting year, will be reported as successfully
9 completing at least fifty percent (50%) of the minimum technical
10 instructional hours required under 22 Pa. Code Ch. 339 (relating
11 to vocational education).

12 "Department." The Department of Education of the
13 Commonwealth.

14 "Established score." A score recommended by the secretary
15 and approved by the State Board of Education.

16 "GPA." Grade point average.

17 "Industry-recognized credential." A credential identified in
18 the industry credential resource book or in the industry-based
19 learning guidelines compiled by the department.

20 "International Baccalaureate Diploma Program." An
21 academically challenging two-year precollege diploma program
22 comprised of three core requirements and six academic subject
23 areas with final examinations that prepare students sixteen (16)
24 to nineteen (19) years of age for higher education and life in a
25 global society.

26 "NIMS assessment." An assessment based on the National
27 Institute for Metalworking Skills standards.

28 "NOCTI exam." A National Occupational Competency Testing
29 Institute exam.

30 "Postsecondary course." A course in which a secondary

1 student is enrolled and, upon successful completion,
2 postsecondary credit is earned.

3 "Preapprenticeship program." An apprenticeship program
4 registered with the Pennsylvania Apprenticeship and Training
5 Council.

6 "SAT." A standardized test for the assessment of college
7 readiness administered by the College Board.

8 "SAT Subject Test." A standardized test for the assessment
9 of a specific content area administered by the College Board.

10 "School entity." A school district, intermediate unit, area
11 vocational-technical school, charter school, cyber charter
12 school, regional charter school or multiple charter school
13 organization.

14 "Secretary." The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth.
15 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.