



CHARTER SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

Administration, 1511 Peach Street, Erie, PA 16501 ~ (814) 480-5954 voice ~ (814) 454-9859 fax

Keystone Requirement Amendments 9-2-16

Dear Students/ Parents,

Recently, there have been several inquiries on the requirements for taking Keystone Exams. CSE has been adhering to policy that is currently found on the PDE Keystone Exam page, requiring students who have not passed the exam to retake the exam as a mandatory requirement. House Bill 880 was passed in February providing guidance to the contrary, for students graduating prior to 2019. The reason and importance of this date is due to the fact that Keystone Scores of Proficient or Advanced may be a requirement for post 2019 graduating classes. We simply do not know what PDE will require at this point in time for post 2019 graduating students. CSE has made a conscious decision to adhere to the information found on the PDE Keystone website. In response to the inquiries, I once more followed up yesterday with PDE relative to this issue. As a result, and being consistent with our philosophy to make decisions that are in the best interest of students, changes will be made effective immediately. The Keystone protocol will be as follows:

1. All students must take Keystone Exams in all of the applicable areas: Algebra I, Biology, and Literacy.
2. Students will take spring Keystone Exams upon completion of the academic course aligned to that specific content or in Grade 11 if none had been previously taken, which complies with the current Federal Mandates.
3. Beginning this 16-17 school year, PDE requires that all transcripts will indicate the highest performance level associated with each Keystone Exam.
4. Students may choose to take additional Keystone Exams, at which time they will be placed into the Keystone course associated with that particular Keystone Exam. Students will not receive multiple credits for the same course.
5. Students will NOT be required to take additional Keystone Exams despite scores of Below Basic and Basic. Those students will be afforded the opportunity not to participate in further Keystone testing.
6. Students currently enrolled in a Keystone course and who choose not to participate in an additional Keystone Exam will remain in their scheduled classroom. Upon successful completion of the course, those students will be afforded "elective" credit in Biology Plus, Algebra Plus, or Literacy Plus.

Please return the attached document so that we may understand your intent as to whether or not your child will be participating in the Keystone Exam an additional time. Also, be advised that as PDE changes their practices, we too may change ours as well. Please contact your building Principal with questions.

Respectfully,

Dr. Nick Viglione
C.E.O.



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**Keystone Requirement Amendments 9-2-16
Parental Response Form**

Please complete and return to your building Principal by September 9th, 2016.

The following document pertains to the letter that was sent home titled “Keystone Requirement Amendments 9-2-16”.

Please check one of the following:

- I verify that I have read and understand the content that was delivered from CSE titled “Keystone Requirement Amendments 9-2-16”, no follow up is required.
- I verify that I have read and DO NOT understand the content that was delivered from CSE titled “Keystone Requirement Amendments 9-2-16”, follow up is required.

The following document is verification as to whether or not my child will be taking an additional Keystone Exam. Completion of this document should drive the decision making process and CSE will meet the recommendations herein.

- I choose to have my child **not participate** in additional Keystone Exams and pursue elective credit.
- I choose to have my child **participate** in additional Keystone Exams in an effort to achieve Proficient or Advanced scores.

This response is regarding my child (child’s name) _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____ Date: ____ - ____ - ____

Contact Info: Phone: _____

Email: _____