

State Content Area Summary Report

Test Date: Spring 2015

Content Areas:



Algebra I



Biology



Literature

This report provides valuable information about performance on the Pennsylvania Keystone Exams. It displays information about how Commonwealth students performed by content area.

The Commonwealth's goal is to enable all students to become lifelong learners and reach their full potential.

About the Keystone Exams

The Keystone Exams are end-of-course assessments designed to evaluate student performance on academic content. The purpose of the Algebra I, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exams is to measure student, educator, and school accountability. Keystone Exams are designed to be administered to students at or near the end of a Keystone-related course. Students' results are banked until their junior year for accountability purposes and until their senior year for graduation purposes. Students who take a Keystone Exam and do not score Proficient or Advanced on the exam must participate in supplemental instruction before re-taking the exam. Keystone Exams are offered in both paper/pencil and online formats.

Keystone Exams are one component of Pennsylvania's system of high school graduation requirements affecting students in the class of 2017 and beyond. These tests were developed by Pennsylvania educators and were aligned to the standards adopted by the Pennsylvania State Board of Education. The results help students, parents, and educators understand how well rigorous expectations for student achievement in core subject areas are being met.

A Report Interpretation Guide is available at www.education.state.pa.us. Type "student report guide" in the search field or consult the local school district or school.

www.pdesas.org

All Content Areas



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

KEYSTONE EXAMS ITEMS





Common items within a content area are administered to all eligible students regardless of the exam form they are assigned. Only the common items are used in determining students' scores and their corresponding performance levels. This practice ensures all students are evaluated using the same set of items.

Field Test items vary between forms. These items are included only as a means for gathering statistical information about an item that might be used in a future assessment. Field Test items are not included in the results of students, schools, or the district.

KEYSTONE EXAMS SCORES

The Keystone Exam score is a scale score computed from the number of points a student receives on the exam (i.e., raw score). For every possible raw score on an exam form, there is a corresponding scale score. Most state testing programs use scale scores for reporting purposes. A given scale score has the same interpretation regardless of the length or difficulty of the exam. For example, a scale score of 1300 always implies the same level of student performance and always falls in the same performance level. The student's Keystone Exam scale score is used to identify the student's performance level. The items on the Keystone Exams change with each administration, but they continue to measure the same Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content.

KEYSTONE EXAMS PERFORMANCE LEVELS

-  **Advanced:** Superior academic performance indicating an in-depth understanding and exemplary display of the skills included in the Keystone Exams Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content.
-  **Proficient:** Satisfactory academic performance indicating a solid understanding and adequate display of the skills included in the Keystone Exams Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content.
-  **Basic:** Marginal academic performance indicating work approaching, but not yet reaching, satisfactory performance. Performance indicates a partial understanding and limited display of the skills included in the Keystone Exams Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content. The student may need additional instructional opportunities and/or increased student academic commitment to achieve the Proficient level.
-  **Below Basic:** Inadequate academic performance indicating little understanding and minimal display of the skills included in the Keystone Exams Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content. There is a major need for additional instructional opportunities and/or increased student academic commitment to achieve the Proficient level.

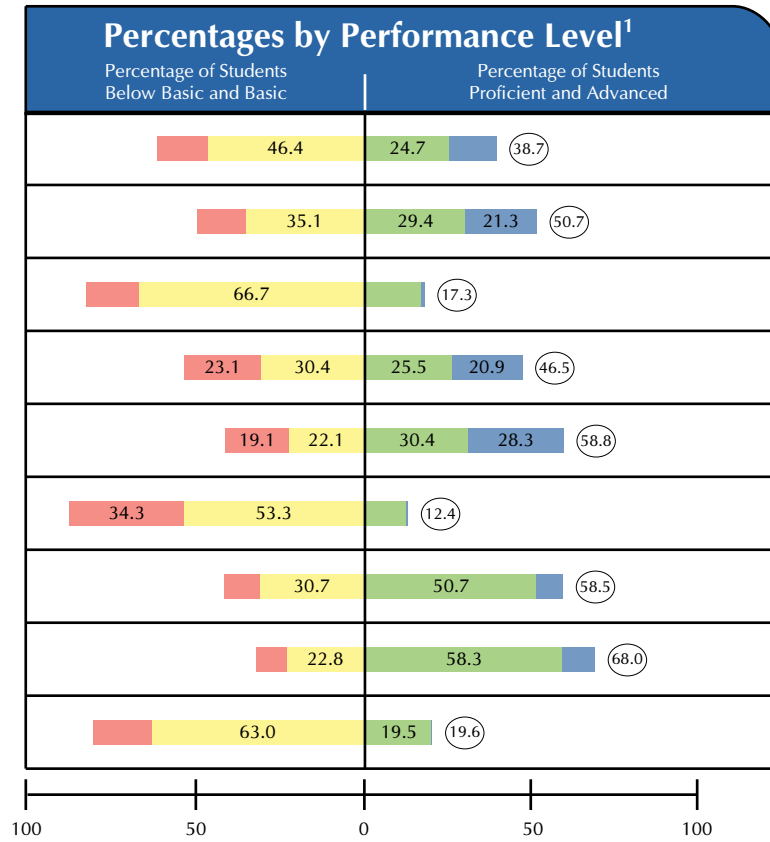
KEYSTONE EXAMS ASSESSMENT ANCHORS AND ELIGIBLE CONTENT

The Keystone Exams Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content are designed to clarify the Academic Standards that may be assessed in the Keystone Exams. An Assessment Anchor is reported only if five or more possible points come from items aligned with the Assessment Anchor. Results based on fewer than five points are not considered statistically reliable.



Performance Level Summary by Content Area

	Test Groups	Total Tested	Below Basic		Basic		Proficient		Advanced	
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Algebra I	State: All Testers	185,447	27,558	14.9	86,085	46.4	45,778	24.7	26,026	14.0
	State: First-Time Testers	118,985	16,971	14.3	41,730	35.1	34,996	29.4	25,288	21.3
	State: Retesters	66,462	10,587	15.9	44,355	66.7	10,782	16.2	738	1.1
Biology	State: All Testers	155,210	35,905	23.1	47,177	30.4	39,620	25.5	32,508	20.9
	State: First-Time Testers	114,091	21,812	19.1	25,250	22.1	34,718	30.4	32,311	28.3
	State: Retesters	41,119	14,093	34.3	21,927	53.3	4,902	11.9	197	0.5
Literature	State: All Testers	140,059	15,135	10.8	43,045	30.7	70,985	50.7	10,894	7.8
	State: First-Time Testers	112,480	10,352	9.2	25,667	22.8	65,602	58.3	10,859	9.7
	State: Retesters	27,579	4,783	17.3	17,378	63.0	5,383	19.5	35	0.1



¹If a percentage is not displayed within the bar graph, consult the table for the actual percentage.

Summaries are based on students' highest scores to date.

Please note that the percentages in the tables may not add up to 100% due to rounding.