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MUASD

CIA NEWSLETTER

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION & ASSESSMENT

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Greetings and Introductions

Let me start by introducing myself. My name is Kristen Streightiff and I am the Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment 6-12 for the Mount Union Area School District.

I have a vast background and in-depth experience in public education, having been an educator for 27 years. My educational background includes a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education (Concentration in Reading) from the Shippensburg University, a Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction (Concentration in Literacy and Language Education) from Penn State University, and the Educational Leadership Program for Principal Certification from the Shippensburg University.

I previously served as an educator for the Huntingdon Area School District, having taught grades 1, 2, and 3 at the Elementary Level for 10 years. I have also instructed 6th grade subjects of Reading, Social Studies, and ELA at the Huntingdon Area Middle School for 12 years. Prior to coming to MUASD in 2023, I served as the Assistant High School Principal at the Huntingdon Area High School for 2 years.

I reside in Huntingdon, with my husband, Chuck, and my two children, Alexis and Aiden.



Alexis, Chuck, Kristen & Aiden



PSSA INFORMATION

The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) is an annual assessment administered in commonwealth classrooms in grades 3 through 8 and in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Pennsylvania adopted more rigorous PA Core Standards in late 2013 and the 2015 PSSA marks the first time the assessment was fully aligned to the standards. These new, more rigorous standards aim to better prepare students for the 21st-century workforce.

Assessment scores represent a snapshot in time of student performance, and should not be considered the sole indicator of student achievement. Standardized assessments, like the PSSA, help Pennsylvania meet federal and state requirements, as well as provide educators, stakeholders, and policymakers with important information about the commonwealth's students and schools, and inform instructional practices.

KEYSTONE EXAMS

The Keystone Exams are end-of-course assessments designed to assess proficiency in the subject areas of Algebra I, Literature, and Biology.

The Keystone Exams are one component of Pennsylvania's new system of high school graduation requirements. Keystone Exams will help school districts guide students toward meeting state standards.

KEYSTONE Test Dates	Algebra I May 20 & 21
Literacy May 13 & 14	Biology May 15 & 16

PSSA Test Dates		ELA	
		Grades 6-8 April 23 & 24	Grades 3-5 April 23, 24, 25
Science		Mathematics	
Grade 8 May 1	Grade 5 May 5 & 6	Grades 6-8 April 29 & 30	Grades 3-5 April 28 & 29

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM THE OFFICE OF CIA...

First and foremost....you can expect honesty.

My goal as the Director of CIA at the Secondary Level is the success of your child. That success takes team work: MUASD, STUDENTS, and PARENTS.

I am available to answer your questions concerning Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment.

Standardized Assessment Exams can be stressful for not only the student, but also the parents. To lessen test anxiety and limit testing misinformation, I meet with students regularly to go over assessment exams: the reason for testing, scores (what do they mean), testing strategies, etc.

Each edition of this newsletter will feature information about curriculum resources and materials used by the Mount Union Area School District, as well as provide information on instructional and assessment strategies.

This newsletter will utilize the TEAM approach; written with the MUASD, student, and parent in mind!

MUASD is working hard so that our students succeed!

TESTING TIPS FOR PARENTS

To help your child prepare adequately for the PSSA or Keystone tests, you can do several things to encourage your child to do his/her best.

1. Make sure your child is in school during the testing sessions.
2. Encourage your child to listen carefully to all of the directions and ask questions about anything that is not clear.
3. See that your child gets an adequate amount of sleep before the test.
4. Make sure that your child eats his/her usual breakfast on the day of the test.
5. Encourage your child to do his/her best! Leave a note!



UNDERSTANDING PATHWAYS *To Graduation*



WHAT ARE THE PATHWAYS

Keystone Proficiency
Composite Score “4452”
Alternative
Evidence Based
Waiver

What are these terms? They are “pathways” to graduation in Pennsylvania. MUASD insures that all students are meeting requirements for graduation, based on each individual student’s needs. I, along with Guidance Department members, review student data and meet with students to explain the “pathways” journey; addressing accomplished pathways, the need to meet requirements, or alternative paths

AVOID THE CONFUSION

I am here to answer questions from students and parents, regarding requirements to meet Pennsylvania standards for graduation. Allow me to eliminate the confusion for you.



Pennsylvania Pathways to Graduation

Keystone Proficiency Pathway

Numeric or Non-Numeric Scores

Algebra I
Proficient or Advanced

Biology
Proficient or Advanced

Literature
Proficient or Advanced

Keystone Composite Pathway

Numeric Scores Only

At least 1 Keystone Exam scaled score is
1500 or Greater

No Keystone Exam score is
Below Basic

The Keystone Exam 3-score composite is
4452 or Greater
(where eligible under §121.1)

CTE Concentrator

Meet locally established, grade-based requirements for Keystone content in which the student is less than Proficient

CTE Concentrator

1 Artifact from pathway criteria

Alternative Assessment

Meet locally established, grade-based requirements for Keystone content in which the student is less than Proficient

Alternative Assessment

1 Artifact from pathway criteria

Evidence-Based Pathways

Meet locally established, grade-based requirements for Keystone content in which the student is less than Proficient

Evidence-Based

3 Artifacts from pathway criteria

Waiver

A student in 12th grade, or experiencing extenuating circumstances, who meets locally established grade-based requirements for Keystone content area(s) in which the student is less than proficient, and is unable to satisfy the requirements of a graduation pathway may be granted a waiver by the chief school administrator.

Individualized Education Plan

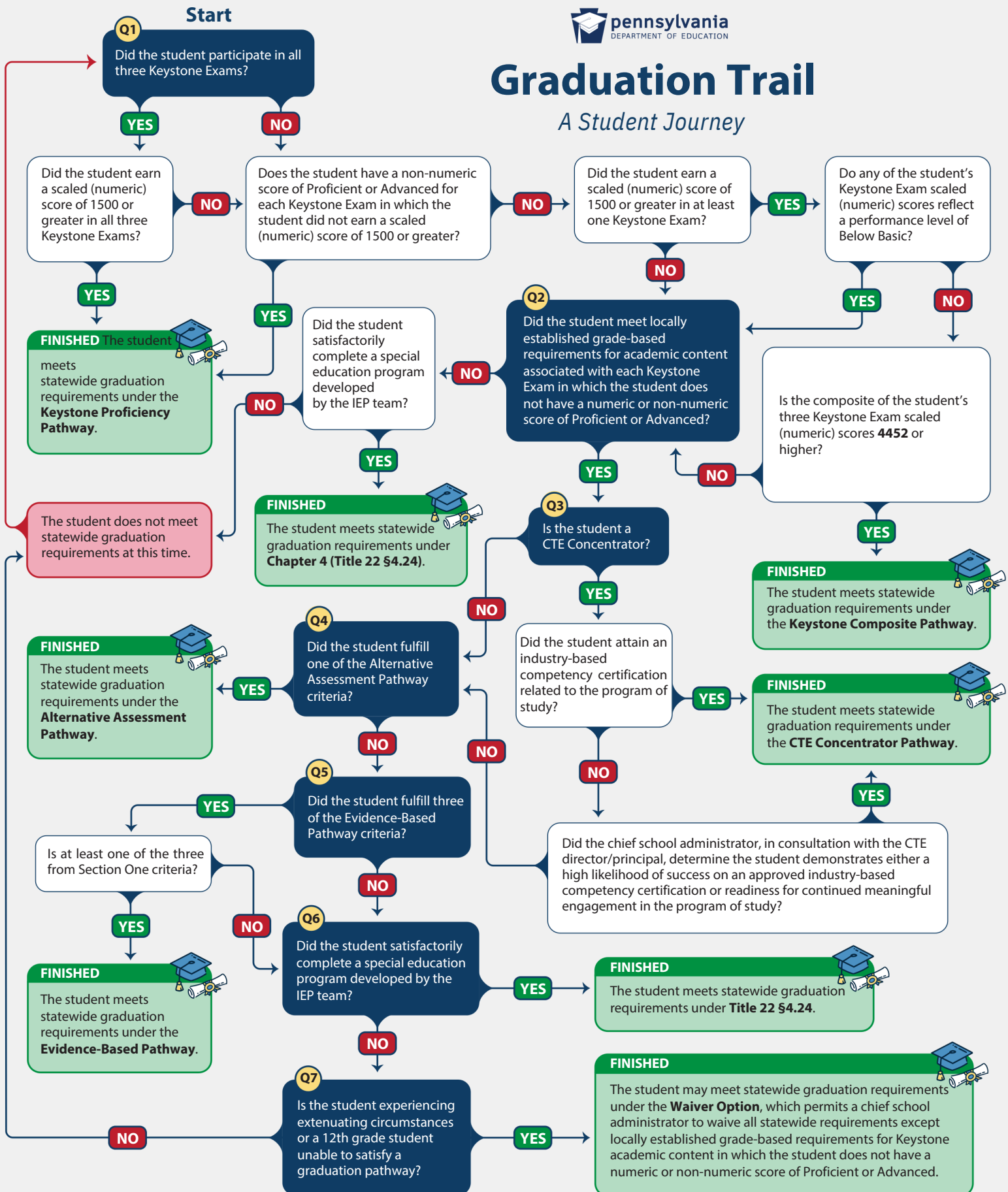
A student with a disability who is unable to satisfy pathway requirements but who satisfactorily completes a special education program is granted a diploma under Title 22 §4.24.

Pathway Criteria

CTE Concentrator	Alternative Assessment	Evidence-Based
1 Artifact	1 Artifact	3 Artifacts consistent w/student goals ONE or more from Section One No more than TWO from Section Two
<p>Industry-based competency certification</p> <p>Likelihood of industry-based competency assessment success</p> <p>Readiness for continued engagement in CTE Concentrator program of study</p>	<p>Attainment of one alternative assessment score or better: ACT (21), ASVAB AFQT (31), PSAT/NMSQT (970), or SAT (1010)</p> <p>Attainment of Gold Level or better on ACT WorkKeys</p> <p>Attainment of 3 or better on AP Exam(s) related to each Keystone content area in which less than Proficient</p> <p>Attainment of 4 or better on IB Exam(s) related to each Keystone content area in which less than Proficient</p> <p>Successful completion of concurrent enrollment course(s) related to each Keystone content area in which less than Proficient</p> <p>Successful completion of a pre-apprenticeship program</p> <p>Acceptance into accredited, non-profit Institution of Higher Education (IHE) 4yr program for college-level coursework</p>	Section 1 <p>Attainment of 630 or better on any SAT Subject Test</p> <p>Attainment of Silver Level or better on ACT WorkKeys</p> <p>Attainment of 3 or better on any AP Exam</p> <p>Attainment of 3 or better on any IB Exam</p> <p>Successful completion of any concurrent enrollment or postsecondary course</p> <p>Industry-recognized credentialization</p> <p>Acceptance into accredited, non-profit Institution of Higher Education (IHE) for college-level coursework in an other-than-4yr program</p> Section 2 <p>Attainment of Proficient or Advanced on any Keystone Exam</p> <p>Successful completion of a service-learning project</p> <p>Letter guaranteeing full-time employment or military enlistment</p> <p>Completion of an internship, externship, or cooperative education program</p> <p>Compliance with NCAA Division II academic requirements</p>

Graduation Trail

A Student Journey



NOTE: This infographic is designed to gauge progress in meeting statewide graduation requirements; however, it maps a sequential progression and assumes that the student has had an opportunity to meet the requirements of each Question. Students should be encouraged to fulfill criteria under multiple Pathways simultaneously to ensure statewide requirements will be met in a timely manner.

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Contact Information

Director of Curriculum,
Instruction, and Assessment
6-12

Mrs. Kristen C. Streightiff

Email:
kstreightiff@muasd.org

Office:
Sr/Jr High Building
706 North Shaver Street
Mount Union, PA 17066

Phone:
(814) 542-2518 ext. 158

Appointments can be
scheduled



**"WORKING TOGETHER TO
ACHIEVE STUDENT SUCCESS"**

Additional Information



Pathways to Graduation & MUASD SR.High Promotion

Pennsylvania Keystone Exams

The Pennsylvania Department of Education requires **all** Pennsylvania students to take the Pennsylvania Keystone Exams by their eleventh-grade school year in the following subject areas: Algebra I, Literature, and Biology. All students starting with the Class of 2023 will be required to use one of the other pathways listed below to graduate.

Graduation requirements starting for the class of 2023 students can meet the statewide graduation requirement by:

- Scoring proficient or advanced on each Keystone Exam - Algebra I, Literature, and Biology.
- Earning a satisfactory composite score on the Algebra I, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exams. The passing composite score will be available in of the following school year.
- Earning a passing grade on the courses associated with each Keystone Exam, and satisfactorily complete one of the following: an alternative assessment (SAT, PSAT, ACT, ASVAB, Gold Level ACT WorkKeys), advanced coursework (AP, IB, concurrent enrollment courses), pre-apprenticeship, or acceptance in a 4-year nonprofit institution of higher education for college-level coursework.
- Earning a passing grade on the courses associated with each Keystone Exam, and pass the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) or the National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS) assessment in an approved Career and Technical Education concentration.
- Earning a passing grade on the courses associated with each Keystone Exam, and demonstrate readiness for postsecondary engagement through three pieces of evidence from the student's career portfolio aligned to student goals and career plan. Examples of evidence will include ACT WorkKeys, SAT Subject tests, AP, IB and concurrent coursework, higher education acceptance, community learning project, completion of an internship, externship or co-op or full-time employment.

ACADEMIC REFERENCES

Senior High School Promotion and Graduation Requirements

A requirement for graduation shall be the completion of required assessments, work, and studies representing the instructional program assigned to grades 9 through 12, which shall be aligned with established **state** and **common core** standards. The minimum number of credits needed for graduation at Mount Union Area High School is 25 credits. Each student in each grade must schedule seven full credit courses. Under Chapter Five of the Pennsylvania Department of Public Education, specified courses listed below must be included in the 25 credits required for graduation in the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades. Physical education, health and safety education are required in the proper grades.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

<u>Required Courses</u>	<u>Credits</u>
English	4
Math	3
Science	3
S.S.	3
Rec & Fit	1
Health	1 up from .50
Grad Project (career exploration)	1
Electives	9 (1 cr Personal Finance Req. class of 2027)
Totaling	25

Note:

- A freshman must earn 6 credits to be classified as a sophomore.
- A sophomore must earn 12 credits to be classified as a junior.
- A junior must earn 18 credits to be classified as a senior.