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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2048 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY LONGIETTI, ROEBUCK, THOMAS, SOLOMON, PASHINSKI,  
KINSEY, READSHAW, D. MILLER, KIRKLAND, SCHLOSSBERG, WARD,  
SCHWEYER, WARREN, ZIMMERMAN, GILLEN AND ROZZI,  
FEBRUARY 1, 2018

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 1, 2018

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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 high schools, providing for high  
6 school graduation requirements.

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

9 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known  
10 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a  
11 section to read:

12 Section 1613.1. High School Graduation Requirements.--(a)  
13 High school graduation requirements and revisions to them shall  
14 be approved by a school entity's governing board by July 1,  
15 2018. A copy of the requirements shall be published and  
16 distributed to students, parents and guardians. Copies of the  
17 requirements also shall be available in each school building or  
18 on each school entity's publicly accessible Internet website.  
19 Changes to high school graduation requirements shall be

1 published and distributed to students, parents and guardians and  
2 made available in each school building or on each school  
3 entity's publicly accessible Internet website immediately  
4 following approval by the governing board of the school entity.

5 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the  
6 contrary, beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, each school  
7 entity, if applicable, shall adopt and implement requirements  
8 for high school graduation that, at minimum, include:

9 (1) Course completion and grades.

10 (2) Demonstration of proficiency as determined by the school  
11 entity, if applicable, in each of the State academic standards  
12 not assessed by a State assessment.

13 (3) Successful completion of each of the following State  
14 academic standards: mathematics, specifically algebra I; English  
15 language arts, specifically literature; and science and  
16 technology and environment and ecology, as determined through  
17 any one of the following:

18 (i) Attainment of an established composite score on the  
19 Algebra I, Biology and Literature Keystone Exams. Each student  
20 who satisfies the requirements of this section in this manner  
21 must achieve basic or above on each of the three Keystone Exams.  
22 The secretary shall establish and identify the satisfactory  
23 composite score a student must achieve in order to meet the  
24 requirements of this section. The composite score and any  
25 changes to the composite score must be approved by the State  
26 board.

27 (ii) For each Keystone Exam on which a student did not  
28 achieve proficiency, completion and attainment of an established  
29 score on an approved alternative assessment that includes  
30 academic content aligned to the following State academic

1 standards: mathematics, specifically algebra I; English language  
2 arts, specifically literature; and science and technology and  
3 environment and ecology, specifically biology. The secretary  
4 shall identify approved alternative assessments for each content  
5 area of algebra I, biology and literature, if applicable, and  
6 shall establish the score a student must attain on each approved  
7 alternative assessment in order to meet the requirements of this  
8 section. The State board shall approve the score a student must  
9 attain on each approved alternative assessment, any changes to  
10 the score to be attained, the list of approved alternative  
11 assessments and any changes to the list.

12 (iii) For each Keystone Exam on which a student does not  
13 achieve proficiency, completion of locally established grade-  
14 based requirements for the associated academic content area and  
15 demonstration of three pieces of evidence that reflect readiness  
16 for meaningful postsecondary engagement, consistent with a  
17 student's goals and career plan as represented in the student's  
18 career portfolio. The department shall provide guidance as to  
19 what may be considered as evidence of readiness for meaningful  
20 postsecondary engagement.

21 (c) A CTE concentrator who satisfies the requirements set  
22 forth in section 121(c) and (d) shall be granted and issued a  
23 high school diploma by the school entity.

24 (d) Children with disabilities who satisfactorily complete a  
25 special education program developed by an individualized  
26 education program team under the Individuals With Disabilities  
27 Education Act (Public Law 91-230, 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.) and  
28 22 Pa. Code Ch. 14 (relating to special education services and  
29 programs) shall be granted and issued a regular high school  
30 diploma by the school entity, if applicable. This subsection

1 applies if the special education program of a child with a  
2 disability does not otherwise meet the requirements of this  
3 section.

4 (e) For purposes of this section, a student shall be deemed  
5 proficient in the State academic standards whenever the student  
6 satisfies the requirements of subsection (b), regardless of the  
7 student's grade level or age.

8 (f) A student who has achieved a score of proficient or  
9 advanced on a Keystone Exam is not permitted to retake the exam.

10 (g) The performance level demonstrated in each of the State  
11 academic standards in subsection (b), including the highest  
12 performance level demonstrated by a student on the associated  
13 Keystone Exam, may be included on a student's transcript.

14 (h) The release of individual student Pennsylvania System of  
15 School Assessment or Keystone Exam scores to the department or  
16 other Commonwealth entities is prohibited in accordance with 22  
17 Pa. Code § 4.51(f) (relating to State assessment system).

18 (i) Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, a school entity  
19 is not required to provide and a student is not required to  
20 complete supplemental instruction as required by 22 Pa. Code §§  
21 4.24(k) (relating to high school graduation requirements) and  
22 4.51b(f) (relating to Keystone Exams) or any other provision of  
23 law.

24 (j) A student shall not be required to participate in a  
25 project-based assessment pursuant to 22 Pa. Code §§ 4.24 and  
26 4.51c (relating to project-based assessment) or any other  
27 provision of law.

28 (k) A school entity shall determine whether a student who  
29 transfers from an out-of-State school having demonstrated  
30 proficiency in coursework and assessments aligned with the State

1 academic standards assessed by each Keystone Exam may satisfy  
2 the requirements of subsection (b) subject to guidance developed  
3 by the secretary.

4 (1) As used in this section:

5 "Career portfolio" shall mean a future education and career  
6 plan required under the Career Education and Work Standards set  
7 forth in 22 Pa. Code Ch. 4 (relating to academic standards and  
8 assessment).

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

14 "Department" shall mean the Department of Education of the  
15 Commonwealth.

16 "Keystone Exams" shall mean State-developed end-of-course  
17 exams. The term includes the designated Keystone Exams used to  
18 determine, in part, a student's eligibility for high school  
19 graduation.

20 "Program of study" shall mean instructional programs  
21 developed by the department's Bureau of Career and Technical  
22 Education that include content aligned with academic standards  
23 and relevant career and technical content in a progression of  
24 courses that align secondary education with postsecondary  
25 education to adequately prepare students to succeed in  
26 postsecondary education.

27 "School entity" shall mean a school district, charter school,  
28 cyber charter school, area vocational technical school or  
29 intermediate unit.

30 "Secretary" shall mean the Secretary of Education of the

1 Commonwealth.

2 "State assessment" shall mean a valid and reliable  
3 measurement of student performance on a set of academic  
4 standards as measured by the Pennsylvania System of School  
5 Assessment or the Keystone Exams.

6 "State board" shall mean the State Board of Education.

7 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.