

ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Keystone Exams: Grade 12 Graduation-Status Files

The graduation requirements established through Act #158 apply for the first time to the graduating class of 2023. The Keystone Exams offer two pathways by which a student can meet the graduation requirements—either by achieving a proficient score on all three exams or by meeting one of the minimum composite scores. To assist LEAs in determining whether students have achieved the requirements via the Keystone pathways, DRC will be providing Grade 12 Graduation-Status Files.

Each LEA's graduation-status file will include all students in grade 12 whose district of residence belongs to that LEA. **Note:** Each student's grade level and district of residence will be provided to DRC from PDE (PIMS). DRC will add the best Keystone Exam score and composite score to each grade 12 student. Please remember that DRC can only provide Keystone results if the PIMS student record matches test records in our database. If a student has had any name, birthdate, or PAsecureID changes between the test event(s) and PIMS' production of the grade 12 file, that student may not have Keystone results in the graduation-status file. LEAs can run Feeder Reports within Data Interaction to obtain the Keystone results of a student who does not have results in the files.

The graduation-status files will be available to LEAs on the DRC INSIGHT Portal at the same time Data Interaction is refreshed with the 2022/2023 Winter Keystone Exams results. The timing is intentional so that the files are available when LEAs have access to warehoused data with the most recent Keystone results. This also ensures that all Data Interaction Feeder Reports will deliver up-to-date results. Access to the graduation-status files will be granted to the Reporting Contact on file for each LEA.

Look for more information about the Grade 12 Graduation-Status Files in the upcoming weeks. Remember that the graduation-status files are only one source through which LEAs can determine a student's attainment of the graduation requirements.

Online Parental Reviews

Does your LEA administer the PSSA or Spring Keystone Exams 100% online? If so, you are eligible to conduct your parental reviews 100% online too! This option was rolled out for the 2022/23 Winter Keystone Exams to make it possible for online-testing sites to eliminate the additional work of managing paper materials by providing them with online test tickets exclusively for parental reviews.

These test tickets will allow parents/guardians to view the same online test that will be administered across the LEA. The test tickets will be generic and can be used for all parental reviews. The test engine will be available for parental reviews two weeks prior to the test window. LEAs must continue to follow the same security procedures for an online parental review that are required when a parent/guardian is reviewing a paper test.

LEAs can request test tickets for parental reviews three weeks prior to the opening of a test window. DRC will not automatically send test tickets to sites that are administering the online test, nor will DRC stop such sites from requesting paper materials. If your LEA wants to take advantage of this new option, send an email to pacustomerservice@datarecognitioncorp.com

TIDBITS

- ◆ Over 1.7 million online PSSA tests were administered in 2022.
- ◆ DRC will be presenting a session on the benefits of online testing at the 2023 PDE Data Summit.
- ◆ The Desmos calculator has replaced the INSIGHT calculators for all online Pennsylvania assessments.
- ◆ The PSSA Mixed-Mode accommodation that allows students to respond to multiple choice questions online and open-ended items on paper is available for **all PSSA subjects**.
- ◆ Remember to add any online student accommodations before creating test tickets.
- ◆ Publicly accessible versions of the PA Online Tools Training are available at

<https://wbte.drcdirect.com/PA/portals/pa>

Contact DRC PA Customer Service 800-451-7849
Email: PAcustomerservice@datarecognitioncorp.com
DRC INSIGHT website: <https://www.drcdirect.com>

2023 Spring Corrections and Attribution Systems

DRC annually evaluates the schedule for the spring corrections-systems windows to minimize conflicts with holidays and other summer events. As a result of that analysis, and to reduce the amount of time LEAs are required to work within the systems, both the Spring Keystone Exams Corrections System and the Grades 3 – 8 Attributions System will run concurrently from June 21 – June 27, 2023. This approach also makes it possible for both systems to be open for five full business days. DRC anticipates that LEAs will benefit from the length of the dual-system window and from the elimination of the additional time that would have been required for separate windows.

Remember that DRC's Keystone Corrections System, Grades 3-8 Attributions System, and Grade 11 Attributions System serve the sole purpose of providing districts and schools an opportunity to ensure that the student data used for administration and accountability reporting is accurate and complete. These systems allow you to match students to PIMS, correct a student's district or school assignment, or match a student to his or her results on a previous Keystone Exam.

PDE's expectation is that all LEAs will leverage these important systems to make all allowed corrections before final reporting files are produced. LEAs that do not utilize the systems will not have an opportunity to fix incorrect data in final reporting.

If you are a new DAC or SAC, or if you have new coordinators within your LEA, it is imperative that you are aware of the dates and expectations of each corrections system. **Note:** only the district personnel on file at DRC will receive correspondence about each system. If you are responsible for working within a corrections system, you must be available to access the systems during the scheduled durations.

DRC cannot grant extensions to sites that miss any of the windows listed below.

Spring Keystone Corrections Window | June 21-27, 2023

Grades 3-8 Attributions System Window | June 21-27, 2023

Grade 11 Attributions System Window | July 18-20, 2023

A New Site for Resources and Training

Coming this spring, DRC will be moving some of the most frequently accessed resource and training materials to an easy-to-use Google site. This site will supplement what is already available to you on the DRC INSIGHT Portal, and it will be streamlined to take you directly to the materials and training you'll need for a successful administration of the assessments.

The first use of the new "PSA Assessments" site will be to host the 2023 PSSA and Spring Keystone Exams administration training materials. The site will allow LEAs easy access to view training videos about the administration of both the paper/pencil and online administrations.

It is important for LEAs to remember that PDE expects all District Assessment Coordinators to view DRC's administration training. It's also important to note that the administration training is essential for new and experienced coordinators alike. The Pennsylvania State Test Administration Training (PSTAT) website is not a replacement for administration training. DRC's administration training is the only source through which you'll receive information and instruction on receiving assessment materials, managing student data and test sessions, handling test tickets and assessment materials, and packaging and returning assessment materials.

Look for more information to come for both the new PA Assessments Google site and the redesigned 2023 PSSA and Spring Keystone Exams Administration Training.

Classroom Diagnostic Tools (CDT) Updates

Teachers across the state continue to utilize the CDT as a flexible and adaptive way to gauge how their students are progressing toward curriculum goals and mastery of specific academic content. More than 920,000 CDT tests have already been administered in the 2022-2023 school year! The CDT is free to all LEAs, and its wide array of full-length and Diagnostic Category tests provides students and teachers with valuable progress data in a system that is continually enhanced to improve opportunities for student and educator engagement.

PDE and DRC continue to offer the option of administering remote (at-home) CDT tests, and DRC has also made improvements to the Interactive Reporting system in response to feedback from the field. Beginning this year, an “Ethnicity” filter was added to the Group Maps to allow CDT users an easier method to view reports at a desired level of detail. Coming this fall, DRC will be releasing a new CDT report to Batch Downloads: Flexible Groupings Report. The output of this report will automatically populate Student Groups by diagnostic-category performance to help teachers quickly identify the needs of a subset of students.

Don’t miss out on this powerful tool designed and customized for Pennsylvania educators! If you have any questions about the CDT or if your LEA is ready to start administering the diagnostic tests, please contact DRC’s Pennsylvania Customer Service team.

Additional professional development resources for the CDT are available here: [PA CDT Training and Resource Site](#)

Device Support Awareness

An important element of online testing is ensuring that all testing devices are running on the most current version of the device’s operating system. This is critical because each updated release of the DRC INSIGHT online testing system is configured to work within the security and functionality features of the newest operating systems.

Most testing devices are configured so that operating systems are updated automatically. As such, there is no additional work for technology staff when an updated version of DRC INSIGHT is released over the summer. However, there can be situations in which a student’s testing device can no longer accept operating system updates. In these cases, the vendor/manufacturer considers the devices “obsolete.”

Technology staff must closely monitor the support plans for student testing devices to ensure that all devices are able to accept operating system updates. If testing devices are running on “obsolete” operating systems, the device will not be able to deliver the online tests with the needed level of functionality to provide the expected student test experience or the level of security the assessments demand. In such cases, the device cannot be used to deliver the 2022-2023 online assessments.

The DRC INSIGHT system requirements and other documentation related to device support are readily available within the DRC INSIGHT Portal. Technology staff should reference these materials or call DRC Customer Service with any questions about specific testing devices.

Keystone Exams

WINTER—District Student Data Files will be released on March 6, 2023. Parent Letters will be released on March 9, 2023.

SPRING—The Spring Keystone Exams testing window is May 15-26, 2023, and the Test Setup Window for Precode Labels is March 17-21, 2023. The Spring Keystone Exams should be administered to any students who have finished the corresponding course work.

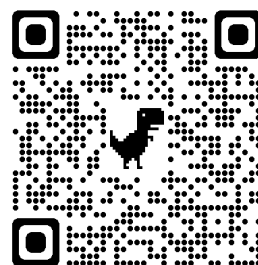
Additionally, students who are in grade 11 in the 2022-23 school year and have not yet taken an exam should be administered the exams for inclusion in 2023 accountability calculations.

SUMMER—The Summer Keystone Exams Enrollment System will be available on the DRC INSIGHT Portal March 29-31, 2023, and the Test Setup Window for Precode Labels will be June 9-13, 2023.

The testing window for the Summer Keystone Exams is July 24-28, 2023.

Committee Meetings

Are you interested in becoming more involved with the Pennsylvania assessments? PDE is looking for educators to serve on various committees to review test items, determine scoring rules for open-ended responses, and more! Participating educators are rewarded with rich professional development experiences and Act 48 hours as well. Click [here](#) or scan the code with your smart phone.



Returning Assessment Materials

Here are some reminders:

1. **Apply the appropriate return shipment labels** to the boxes containing answer documents versus test booklets and unopened packages. DRC has a finite timeline during which answer booklets are processed for reporting, and only booklets from boxes labeled as containing answer booklets will be processed at this time. Any answer documents returned within boxes labeled for test booklets will not be included for reporting.

2. **Ensure that every used answer booklet has a precode or district/school label affixed** to the front cover. These labels indicate that the answer booklet should be processed for the student identified on the label or the name grid.

3. **Untuck test and answer booklets from each other.** Answer booklets tucked inside test booklets can be missed during check-in and may result in a student not receiving a score.

4. **Return materials by specified deadlines.** For more specific details on packaging and returning materials, check out each administration's Handbook for Assessment Coordinators manual.

2023 IMPORTANT DATES

PSSA

Secure Test Materials Arrive at Districts/Schools	By April 10, 2023
English Language Arts Test Window	April 24-28, 2023
Mathematics, Science, Make-up Test Window	May 1-5, 2023
Mathematics, Science, Make-up Test Window (OPTIONAL)	May 8-12, 2023
Deadline to Return Materials - Early Reports	May 5, 2023
Deadline to Return Materials - Regular Reports	May 17, 2023
Student Data Files Posted - Early Reports	June 2, 2023
Student Data Files Posted - Regular Reports	June 20, 2023
Grades 3-8 Attributions Window	June 21-27, 2023
Grade 11 Attributions Window	July 18-20, 2023
Student Data Files Posted - Accountability Reports	August 10, 2023

Spring Keystone

Test Setup Window for Precode Labels	March 17-21, 2023
Secure Test Materials Arrive	By May 2, 2022
Testing Window	May 15-26, 2023
Deadline for Districts to Return Materials	June 1, 2023
Keystone Correction Window	June 21-27, 2023
Student Data Files Posted	July 17, 2023

Summer Keystone

Enrollment Window	March 29-31, 2023
Test Setup Window for Precode Labels	June 12-14, 2023
Testing Window	July 24-28, 2023

Classroom Diagnostic Tools

Close of the 2022-2023 Testing Window	June 23, 2023
---------------------------------------	---------------

There are now three graduation pathways that involve the Keystone Exams:

1. Score at least proficient on the Algebra I, Biology, and Literature Keystone Exams.
2. Earn a Three-Test Keystone Composite score of 4452 or higher on the Algebra I, Biology, and Literature Keystone Exams while also achieving at least a Proficient score on at least one of the three exams and no less than a Basic score on the remaining two.
3. Earn a Two-Test Composite score of 2939 or higher with at least one Proficient score and no Below Basic scores on two Keystone Exams and a Coronavirus Exemption for the other.

