

UPPER PERKIOMEN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Education Center, 2229 E. Buck Road, Pennsburg PA 18073

Educational Programs and Services Committee

February 16, 2023

Chair: Mike Elliott

Ex-Officio: Melanie Cunningham, President

Members: JP Prego, Emily McCormick, Dana Hipszer

Superintendent-Dr. Allyn Roche
Assistant Superintendent-Dr. Andrea Farina
Director of Special Education-Carol Giblin

Supervisor of Special Education-Amy Coyle
Director of Curriculum and Instruction-Kimberly Bast
Curriculum Supervisor-Sarah Rothermel
Director of Technology-James Roth

Approval of January 19, 2023 EPS minutes.

Kindergarten Registration for the 2023-2024 school year will be held in person on March 6th and March 22nd. A potential date may be added during the summer.

There are proposed changes to the graduation requirements beginning in 2023 (Act 158). There are five pathways that will allow students to meet state high school graduation requirements: Keystone Proficiency, Keystone Composite, Career and Technical Education (CTE) Concentrator, Alternative Assessment, and Evidence-Based. Alternatively, a student may be granted a diploma via a waiver or special education program (IEP).

Keystone Proficiency: the student must score Proficient or Advanced on all three Keystone exams (Biology, Algebra, Literature). A proficient score is 1500 per exam.

Keystone Composite Pathway: the student must score Proficient or Advanced on at least one Keystone exam and have no scores Below Basic on any of the exams. The 3 composite scores must be 4452 or greater or 2 composite scores must be 2939 or greater.

CTE Pathway: the student must pass all three Keystone trigger courses (Biology, Algebra, English 10) and have achieved one of the following: earned an industry-based competency certification by passing either the OSHA or SP2 certification exam, demonstrated a likelihood of success on industry-based competency assessment by meeting minimum required score on PNOCTI or PNIMS, or have scored 2 or higher on all completed areas of shop task list.

Alternative Assessment Pathway: the student must pass all three Keystone trigger courses (Biology, Algebra, English 10) and have achieved one of the following: scored 21 or higher on the ACT, scored 31 or higher on the ASVAB AFQT, scored 970 or higher on the PSAT/NMSQT, scored 1010 or higher on the SAT, scored Gold Level or higher on ACT WorkKeys, scored 3 or higher on AP exam(s) related to each Keystone content area in which student scored less than proficient, successfully completed a pre-apprenticeship program, or been accepted into a 4 year institution of higher education for college-level coursework.

Act 339 was developed to prepare students for postsecondary education and workforce training. Industry-based learning experiences vary but have the common goal of providing students with the opportunity to connect academic and technical skills to real-world settings. Some examples include: site visits, job shadowing, paid and unpaid internships, job training, mentorships, service learning, apprenticeships, or paid employment. Act 339 at UPHS is tentatively set up to have career mentorship in 9th grade, job shadowing in 10th grade, service learning in 11th grade and catch up and capstone in 12th grade.

Senate Bill 1243 is legislation that requires the curriculum for the economics and personal finance course. It will include: the true cost of credit, choosing and managing a credit card, including, but not limited to, the calculation of the annual percentage rate and compound interest, borrowing money for automobile or other large purposes, home mortgages, credit scoring and credit reports, planning and paying for post-secondary education, basic principles of personal insurance policies, and basic principles of how to prepare and file federal, state and local tax returns.

Currently there are two different requirements for graduating. To receive a standard diploma, students must obtain a minimum of 28 credits (4 credits in English, Social Studies, Math and Science; 2 credits in Physical Education, 1 credit in Health, 2 credits in Technology and 7 credits of electives). To receive a standard diploma as a WMCTC student, students must obtain a minimum of 25 credits (4 credits in English, 3 credits in Math, Science and Social Studies, 2 credits in Physical Education, 1 credit in Health, 1.5 credits in Technology and 7.5 credits of electives).

There are changes being proposed to the graduation requirements. To earn a Traditional Diploma, students must earn a total of 24 credits (4 credits in English, 3 credits in Math, Science and Social Studies, 1 credit in Health, 2 credits in Physical Education and 8 credits of electives). To earn a Scholars Diploma, students must earn a total of 28 credits (4 credits in English, Math, Science, Social Studies, 1 credit in Health, 2 credits in Physical Education, and 9 credits of electives). A Traditional Diploma requires courses in Grades 9 and 10 and electives in Grades 11 and 12. Personal Finance must be taken by all students, recommending Grades 11, 12. Currently working with Department Chairs on any necessary course sequence changes and to add more .5 electives.

The 2023-2024 Program of Studies has been updated to include the addition of Conceptual Chemistry, AP Physics 1 and 2, name changes to AP Art (as per College Board) and the Graduation Pathways.

The Science PSSA is moving to 5th grade from 4th grade in 2024-2025. UPSD will use the Next Generation Science Standards. The NGSS uses three distinct dimensions to learning science. These dimensions combine to form each standard (or performance expectation) and each dimension works with the other two to build a cohesive understanding of science over time. The dimensions are Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts.

Pre-K Counts at UPSD. We have partnered with LifeSpan Pre-School to apply for a competitive grant to bring Pre-K Counts to UPSD. The program provides high quality pre-kindergarten services to at risk three- and four- year olds at no cost to families. The grant opens in March and we will be applying for two classrooms.

The next EPS Committee meeting will be held on March 16, 2023.