pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PENNSYLVANIA
KEYSTONE EXAMS

REPORT INTERPRETATION GUIDE
KEYSTONE EXAMS

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Keystone Exams Report Interpretation Guide

GUIDE TO READING THE STUDENT REPORT

The Keystone Exams are one component of Pennsylvania's new system of high school graduation requirements for students in the class of 2017 and beyond. Students take the exams toward the end of specific courses, beginning in 2010-2011 for Algebra I, Biology, and Literature.

The Student Report displays how a student performed on each Keystone Exam. This guide helps explain the scores on the student's report. If the student did not take both modules of an exam, part of the report is blank. Remember, these exams are only one measure of the student's growth academically.

DESCRIPTIONS OF PAGE 1 OF THE STUDENT REPORT

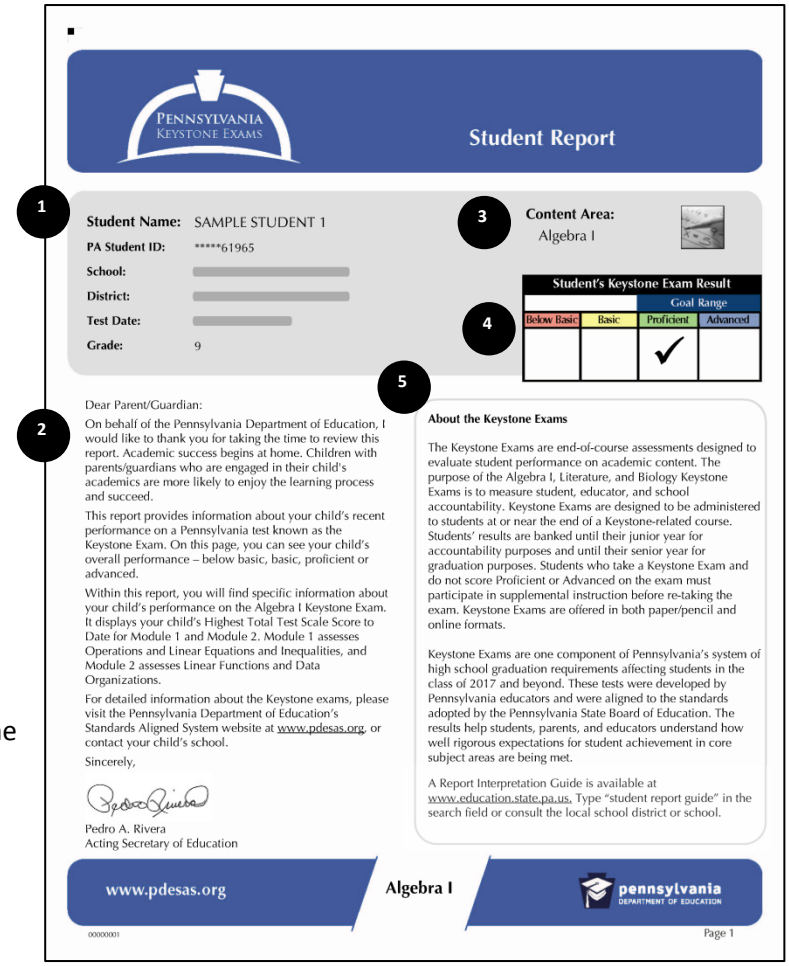
1 **STUDENT INFORMATION**
This section identifies the student's name, school, district, date of testing, and grade.

2 **SECRETARY'S GREETING**
This letter is from the Secretary of Education and describes content assessed on the Keystone Exam.

3 **CONTENT AREA**
This is the course or subject matter covered by the Keystone Exam.

4 **STUDENT'S KEYSTONE EXAM RESULT**
This table indicates the student's performance level on the Keystone Exam.

5 **ABOUT THE KEYSTONE EXAMS**
This is a brief summary of the Keystone Exams.



PENNSYLVANIA KEYSTONE EXAMS

Student Report

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Student Name: SAMPLE STUDENT 1
PA Student ID: *****61965
School:
District:
Test Date:
Grade: 9

3

Content Area:
Algebra I

4

Student's Keystone Exam Result

		Goal Range	
Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
		✓	

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Department of Education, I would like to thank you for taking the time to review this report. Academic success begins at home. Children with parents/guardians who are engaged in their child's academics are more likely to enjoy the learning process and succeed.

This report provides information about your child's recent performance on a Pennsylvania test known as the Keystone Exam. On this page, you can see your child's overall performance – below basic, basic, proficient or advanced.

Within this report, you will find specific information about your child's performance on the Algebra I Keystone Exam. It displays your child's Highest Total Test Scale Score to Date for Module 1 and Module 2. Module 1 assesses Operations and Linear Equations and Inequalities, and Module 2 assesses Linear Functions and Data Organizations.

For detailed information about the Keystone exams, please visit the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Standards Aligned System website at www.pdesas.org, or contact your child's school.

Sincerely,

Pedro A. Rivera
Acting Secretary of Education

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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 Algebra I pennsylvania DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Guide to Keystone Exams Student Reports

DESCRIPTIONS OF PAGE 2 OF THE STUDENT REPORT

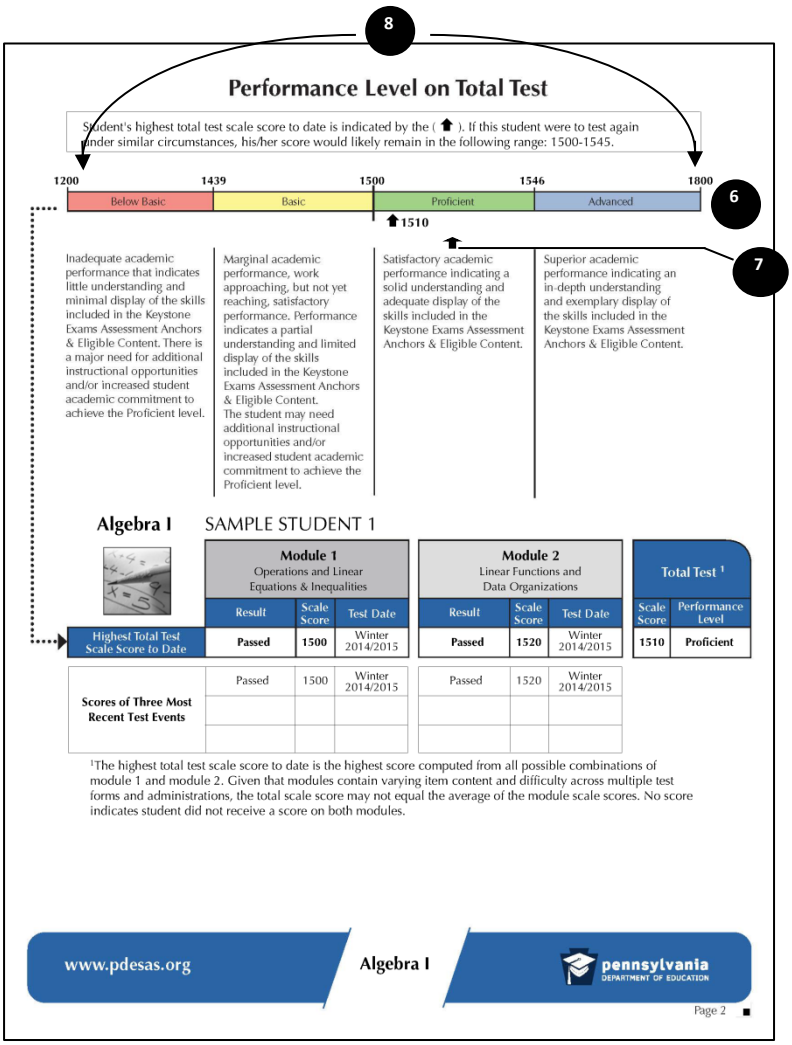
6 PERFORMANCE LEVEL ON TOTAL TEST
The arrow points to the student's performance level for the total Keystone Exam.

Note: If the student was not tested or did not receive a total score, an arrow pointing to the performance level is not displayed.

7 STUDENT'S SCORE
The Highest Total Test Scale Score to Date indicates the student's scale score for the total test. Additionally, the arrow on the bar graph indicates where the student's score falls within a performance level.

Because each content area has its own individual scale, the student's Keystone Exam scores should not be compared across content areas.

8 MINIMUM/MAXIMUM SCALE SCORES
The minimum and maximum scale scores represent the minimum and maximum scores a student could earn. Each Keystone Exam has a minimum and maximum score that stays the same across years. The Proficient score is set at 1500 for all exams.



DESCRIPTIONS OF PAGE 2 OF THE STUDENT REPORT (CONTINUED)

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STANDARD ERROR OF MEASURE

This range reflects the standard error of measurement (SEM) for the student's Keystone Exam score. Specifically, it provides a reasonable range of scores that the student might receive if he or she took an equivalent version of the exam. (In other words, the student took an exam that covered exactly the *same* content, but included a *different* set of items.) For example, if the Keystone Exam score is 1750 and the SEM range is 1700 to 1800, then the student would be likely to score somewhere between 1700 and 1800 if a different version of the exam is taken under similar conditions.

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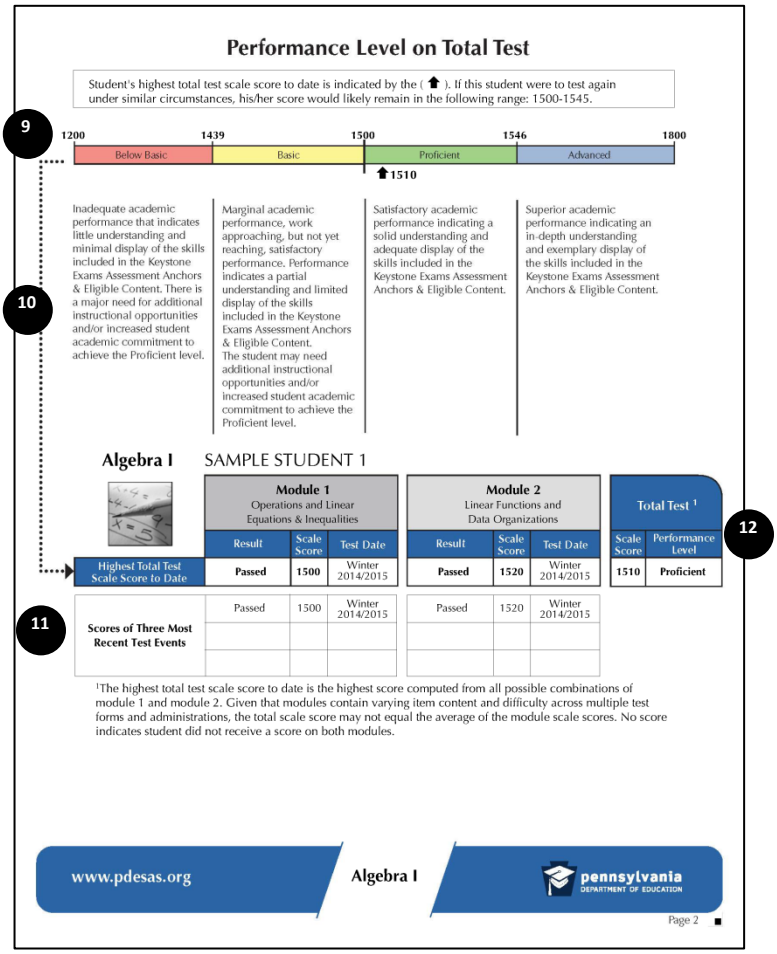
MEANING OF PERFORMANCE LEVELS

This section provides a general description of the Pennsylvania performance levels. Student performance on the Keystone Exams falls into one of four performance levels: Below Basic, Basic, Proficient, and Advanced.



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STUDENT'S PERFORMANCE IN EACH MODULE

This section indicates the student's performance within each module. It provides the assessment anchors covered in each module. Additionally, it identifies the result, scale score, and date of testing for each module and test event.

Note: Students do not need to pass both modules in order to score Proficient on the exam.

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STUDENT'S PERFORMANCE FOR TOTAL TEST

This section indicates the student's scale score and performance level for the total test. The scale score for the total test reflects the highest score computed as the combination of the two highest module scores. Because modules contain varying item content and difficulty, the total scale score may not equal the average of the modules. Students taking the Keystone Exam for the first time must take both modules in order to receive a total test scale score.

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Guide to Keystone Exams Student Reports

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE KEYSTONE EXAMS

CONTENT COVERED ON THE KEYSTONE EXAMS

Each Keystone Exam is organized into two major reporting categories known as modules. Each module is organized around specific assessment anchors and eligible content within a content area. Assessment anchors and eligible content are statements that clarify the standards assessed on each Keystone Exam and serve as one tool to align curriculum, instruction, and assessment. All questions on the Keystone Exams are aligned to the Keystone Exams Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content, which can be found on the SAS website at www.pdesas.org/Standard/Views.

FORMATS FOR THE KEYSTONE EXAMS

The Keystone Exams are available in both online and paper/pencil formats. Districts determine whether online, paper/pencil, or both formats are used locally.

TYPES OF QUESTIONS ON THE KEYSTONE EXAMS

The Keystone Exams include multiple-choice questions and constructed-response, or open-ended, questions. For each Keystone Exam, approximately 60% to 75% of the total score is from multiple-choice questions and 25% to 40% of the total score is from constructed-response questions.

PROCESS FOR REPORTING RESULTS

Two copies of the individual student report for all Keystone Exams are sent to each school district and charter school for distribution to parents, teachers, guidance counselors, and/or principals. School districts and charter schools may publish the results of the Keystone Exams school-level reports.