

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

**SENATE BILL****No. 880** Session of  
2015

INTRODUCED BY SMUCKER, FOLMER, VOGEL, TOMLINSON, BROOKS,  
SCAVELLO, HUTCHINSON, DINNIMAN, GREENLEAF, VULAKOVICH, WHITE,  
RAFFERTY, BARTOLOTTA, ALLOWAY, AUMENT AND WAGNER,  
JUNE 8, 2015

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, NOVEMBER 17, 2015

## 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 preliminary provisions, further  
6 providing for Keystone Exams.

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

9 Section 1. Section 121 of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30,  
10 No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, added June 30,  
11 2012 (P.L.684, No.82), is amended to read:

12 Section 121. Keystone Exams.--(a) Subject to annual  
13 appropriation, not later than the 2020-2021 school year, the  
14 Department of Education shall develop and implement Keystone  
15 Exams in the following subjects: algebra I, literature, biology,  
16 English composition, algebra II, geometry, United States  
17 history, chemistry, civics and government and world history. The  
18 State Board of Education shall promulgate regulations, subject

1 to the act of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633, No.181), known as the  
2 "Regulatory Review Act," necessary to implement this section.

3 (b) THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY: <--

4 (1) Notwithstanding section 2604-B(b)(2)(v), 22 Pa. Code § <--  
5 4.24 (relating to high school graduation requirements), 4.51  
6 (relating to State assessment system) or 4.51c (relating to  
7 project-based assessment) or any statute or regulation to the  
8 contrary, the use of the Keystone Exam as a graduation  
9 requirement or as a benchmark for the need for participation in  
10 a project-based assessment shall be delayed until the 2018-2019  
11 school year.

12 (2) THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL INVESTIGATE AND <--  
13 DEVELOP ALTERNATIVES IN ADDITION TO THE USE OF THE KEYSTONE  
14 EXAMS AS A REQUIREMENT FOR GRADUATION AND SHALL, WITHIN SIX (6)  
15 MONTHS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS PARAGRAPH, ISSUE A REPORT  
16 OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS,  
17 INCLUDING PROPOSED LEGISLATION, TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MINORITY  
18 CHAIRMAN OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE AND THE  
19 CHAIRMAN AND MINORITY CHAIRMAN OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE  
20 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. THE REPORT SHALL, AT A MINIMUM,  
21 CONTAIN A DETAILED PLAN AND TIMELINE WITHIN WHICH THE DEPARTMENT  
22 OF EDUCATION SHALL ACCOMPLISH ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

23 (I) IMPLEMENT ALTERNATIVE METHODS FOR STUDENTS TO  
24 DEMONSTRATE PROFICIENCY FOR GRADUATION IN ADDITION TO THE  
25 KEYSTONE EXAMS, PROJECT-BASED ASSESSMENT AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE  
26 ASSESSMENTS PROVIDED FOR IN 22 PA. CODE § 4.24.

27 (II) IMPROVE AND EXPEDITE THE EVALUATION OF PROJECT-BASED  
28 ASSESSMENTS.

29 (III) ENSURE THAT NO STUDENT IS PROHIBITED FROM  
30 PARTICIPATION IN VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION OR ELECTIVE

1 COURSES OR PROGRAMS AS A RESULT OF SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION  
2 REQUIRED IN 22 PA. CODE §§ 4.24(K) AND 4.51B(F) (RELATING TO  
3 KEYSTONE EXAMS).

4 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.