

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA
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November 26, 2012

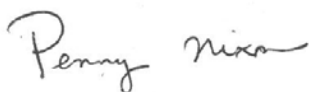
Dear Parents and Guardians,

The School District of Philadelphia is replacing the PSSA Assessments with state-authorized Keystone Exams this school year. These exams are aligned with our new Common Core State Standards, and will evaluate our 11th grade students' proficiency in Algebra 1, Literature, and Biology. These tests will be taken in January, 2013. In addition, any students who have completed Algebra 1, English II, and/or Biology will also participate in the Keystone Exams at the same time as the 11th grade students. If they pass, they will not have to take the test again when they are in 11th grade. Any student who does not score Proficient or Advanced in any of the content areas will be required to retest in May 2013. All students currently enrolled in English II, Algebra 1 and Biology will take the Keystone Exams in May.

You and your child should know that there will be no time limit on the exams, so each student will have as much time as needed on the day of the test. The exams will comprise multiple choice questions (60-75% of the test) and constructed response questions (25-45% of test). Most students will take paper and pencil tests; however, a very limited number of students may take the exam online.

Thank you very much for your continued support of our goal to help every child succeed in reaching his/her greatest potential.

Sincerely,



Penny Nixon