Keystone Exams:
Algebra I, Biology, and Literature

Performance Level Descriptors
And
Cut Scores

July 2011
STATE BOARD REVIEW

**Topic**

– Keystone Algebra I, Biology and Literature
  • Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs)
  • Cut scores

**Task**

– Review PLDs
– Review cut score recommendations

**Action – (July 20, 2011)**

– Adopt PLDs
– Adopt Cut Scores
PERFORMANCE-LEVEL DESCRIPTORS

• Statements that describe the knowledge and skills expected at different performance levels with respect to the Pennsylvania Academic Content Standards as defined by the Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content
  – Provide guidelines to assess the level of student performance
  – Provide an indication of how demanding the standards should be
  – Provide a progression for how the standards should be implemented
## Keystone Exams

### SCALED SCORE CUTS AND IMPACT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Area</th>
<th>BELOW BASIC</th>
<th>BASIC</th>
<th>PROFICIENT</th>
<th>ADVANCED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Algebra I</strong></td>
<td>1200-1438 19.8%</td>
<td>1439-1499 41.2%</td>
<td>1500-1545 27.5%</td>
<td>1546-1800 11.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Biology</strong></td>
<td>1200-1459 31.4%</td>
<td>1460-1499 32.7%</td>
<td>1500-1548 26.6%</td>
<td>1549-1800 9.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Literature</strong></td>
<td>1200-1443 18.3%</td>
<td>1444-1499 31.4%</td>
<td>1500-1583 43.6%</td>
<td>1584-1800 6.7%</td>
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STANDARD SETTING

Performance Standards (i.e., PLDs)

Cut Scores
METHODOLOGY

Bookmark Procedure

– Reviewed by National Technical Advisory Committee
– Focuses on Items
– Utilizes concept of “Borderline Student”
PANELISTS

General, Special, and Higher Education Representatives:

• Range of teaching experience
• Knowledge and expertise of the algebra I, biology, and/or literature content area
• Diverse demographics
• Higher education experience
Keystone Exams

PROCESS

Training → Take Test → Procedure Practice

Round 2: Decisions ← Round 1: Results and Discussion ← Round 1: Decisions

Round 2: Results and Discussion ← Round 3: Final Decisions ← Round 3: Final Results

State Board Review ← Department of Education Review
RECOMMENDATIONS

Adopt Performance Level Descriptors
Keystones Algebra I, Biology, and Literature

Adopt Cut Scores
Keystones Algebra I, Biology, and Literature
## SCALED SCORE CUTS FOR APPROVAL

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