EXAM DESIGN OVERVIEW

The first administrations of the Algebra I, Biology, and Literature Keystone Exams with operational questions are scheduled for May 2011. Each Keystone Exam operational form also will have embedded field test questions.

ALGEBRA I

The Algebra I Keystone Exam will assess students' mastery of the Algebra I Assessment Anchors as defined by the Eligible Content and will be aligned to the Concepts and Competencies. The table below shows how the standards will be separated between the two modules on the operational form.

ALGEBRA I KEYSTONE EXAM TEST DESIGN FOR STANDARDS

	Module 1	Module 2
Assessment Anchors Covered	Operations *and* Linear Equations and Inequalities	Linear Functions *and* Data Organization
Number of Eligible Content Covered	18	15

The table below shows the types of questions and number of questions covered in the Algebra I Keystone Exam operational form.

ALGEBRA I KEYSTONE EXAM BREAKDOWN OF QUESTION TYPES

	Module 1		Module 2		Total	
	Multiple-Choice Questions	Constructed-Response Questions	Multiple-Choice Questions	Constructed-Response Questions	Multiple-Choice Questions	Constructed-Response Questions
Number of Operational Questions	18	3	18	3	36	6
Number of Field Test Questions	5	1	5	1	10	2
Total	23	4	23	4	46	8

The table below shows the types of questions and number of points covered in the Algebra I Keystone Exam operational form.

ALGEBRA I KEYSTONE EXAM BREAKDOWN OF POINTS

	Module 1	Module 2
Number of Operational Multiple-Choice Questions	18 questions at 1 point each = 18 points	18 questions at 1 point each = 18 points
Number of Operational Constructed-Response Questions	3 questions at 4 points each = 12 points	3 questions at 4 points each = 12 points
Total Number of Points	30 points	30 points
Percentage of Points for Entire Test	50%	50%

There will be a total of 60 points (Module 1 and Module 2 combined), with approximately 60% multiple-choice points and 40% constructed-response points.

The table below shows the estimated time a typical student would need to complete Module 1 and Module 2 of the Algebra I Keystone Exam operational form.

ALGEBRA I KEYSTONE EXAM ESTIMATED TIME

	Operational Questions	Field Test Questions	Total Questions
Number of Minutes	114	35	149

The Algebra I Keystone Exam will have two different types of constructed-response questions. Both types of constructed-response questions will be scored on a scale ranging from 0–4 points.

Scaffolding Completion Questions are constructed-response questions that elicit two-to-four distinct responses from a student. When administered online, the responses are electronically entered by the student and are objective and concise. Some examples of student responses may be *5 gallons, vertex at (5, 11), or* $y = 3x + 9$. A designated answer space/box will be provided for each part of the question. No extraneous work or explanation will be scored. To the greatest extent possible, automated scoring will be used to determine the point value of the responses. When applicable, Inferred Partial Credit Rubrics and Scoring Guides will be used to award partial credit to qualifying responses.

Extended Scaffolding Completion Questions are constructed-response questions that require students to respond with extraneous work or explanation for at least part of the question. For example, the student may be asked to "Show all of your work," "Explain why the curve is not a parabola," or "What is the error in Jill's reasoning?" When administered online, responses can be typed by the student, but scoring will not be automated. Question-specific scoring guides will be used by scorers to award credit, including partial credit, for responses.

BIOLOGY

The Biology Keystone Exam will assess students' mastery of the Biology Assessment Anchors as defined by the Eligible Content and will be aligned to the Concepts and Competencies. The table below shows how the standards will be separated between the two modules on the operational form.

BIOLOGY KEYSTONE EXAM TEST DESIGN FOR STANDARDS

	Module 1	Module 2
Assessment Anchors Covered	Cells *and* Cell Processes	Continuity *and* Unity of Life
Number of Eligible Content Covered	16	22

The table below shows the types of questions and number of questions covered in the Biology Keystone Exam operational form.

BIOLOGY KEYSTONE EXAM BREAKDOWN OF QUESTION TYPES

	Module 1		Module 2		Total	
	Multiple-Choice Questions	Constructed-Response Questions	Multiple-Choice Questions	Constructed-Response Questions	Multiple-Choice Questions	Constructed-Response Questions
Number of Operational Questions	24	3	24	3	48	6
Number of Field Test Questions	8	1	8	1	16	2
Total	32	4	32	4	64	8

The table below shows the types of questions and number of points covered in the Biology Keystone Exam operational form.

BIOLOGY KEYSTONE EXAM BREAKDOWN OF POINTS

	Module 1	Module 2
Number of Operational Multiple-Choice Questions	24 questions at 1 point each = 24 points	24 questions at 1 point each = 24 points
Number of Operational Constructed-Response Questions	3 questions at 3 points each = 9 points	3 questions at 3 points each = 9 points
Total Number of Points	33 points	33 points
Percentage of Points for Entire Test	50%	50%

There will be a total of 66 points (Module 1 and Module 2 combined), with approximately 73% multiple-choice points and 27% constructed-response points.

The table below shows the estimated time a typical student would need to complete Module 1 and Module 2 of the Biology Keystone Exam operational form.

BIOLOGY KEYSTONE EXAM ESTIMATED TIME

	Operational Questions	Field Test Questions	Total Questions
Number of Minutes	108	36	144

Each constructed-response question on the Biology Keystone Exam will be scored on a scale ranging from 0–3 points. The student will type the response in narrative format online or write the response in the space provided in the answer book.

LITERATURE

The Literature Keystone Exam will assess students' mastery of the Literature Assessment Anchors as defined by the Eligible Content and will be aligned to the Concepts and Competencies. The table below shows how the standards will be separated between the two modules on the operational form.

LITERATURE KEYSTONE EXAM TEST DESIGN FOR STANDARD

	Module 1	Module 2
Assessment Anchors Covered	Fiction Literature	Nonfiction Literature
Number of Eligible Content Covered	25	31

The table below shows the types of questions and number of questions covered in the Literature Keystone Exam operational form.

LITERATURE KEYSTONE EXAM BREAKDOWN OF QUESTION TYPES

	Module 1			Module 2			Total		
	Passages	Multiple-Choice Questions	Constructed-Response Questions	Passages	Multiple-Choice Questions	Constructed-Response Questions	Passages	Multiple-Choice Questions	Constructed-Response Questions
Number of Operational Questions	2	17	3	2	17	3	4	34	6
Number of Field Test Questions	1	6	1	1	6	1	2	12	2
Total	3	23	4	3	23	4	6	46	8

The table below shows the types of questions and number of points covered in the Literature Keystone Exam operational form.

LITERATURE KEYSTONE EXAM BREAKDOWN OF POINTS

	Module 1	Module 2
Number of Operational Multiple-Choice Questions	17 questions at 1 point each = 17 points	17 questions at 1 point each = 17 points
Number of Operational Constructed-Response Questions	3 questions at 3 points each = 9 points	3 questions at 3 points each = 9 points
Total Number of Points	26 points	26 points
Percentage of Points for Entire Test	50%	50%

There will be a total of 52 points (Module 1 and Module 2 combined), with approximately 65% multiple-choice points and 35% constructed-response points.

The table below shows the estimated time a typical student would need to complete Module 1 and Module 2 of the Literature Keystone Exam operational form.

LITERATURE KEYSTONE EXAM ESTIMATED TIME

	Operational Questions	Field Test Questions	Total Questions
Number of Minutes	104	42	146

Each constructed-response question on the Literature Keystone Exam will consist of a stem and be scored on a scale ranging from 0–3 points. The student will type the response in narrative format online or write the response in the space provided in the answer book.