**Keystone Exam Assessment Anchor Inventory Tool**

**Introduction**

Since the introduction of the Keystone Exams, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has been working to create a set of tools designed to help educators improve instructional practices and better understand the Keystone Exams. The Assessment Anchors, as defined by the Eligible Content, are one of the many tools the Department believes will better align curriculum, instruction, and assessment practices throughout the commonwealth. Without this alignment, it will not be possible to significantly improve student achievement across the Commonwealth.

The Inventory tool is designed to support districts as they evaluate their curriculum regarding alignment regarding the Keystone Assessment Anchors and the respective modules associated with the exam. An explanation follows regarding the use for the inventory tool.

**ANCHOR DESCRIPTOR is provided by PDE.** The Assessment Anchors identify a core set of standards that could be reasonably assessed on a large‐scale assessment, which will keep educators from having to guess which standards are critical The Assessment Anchors represent categories of subject matter that anchor the content of the Keystone Exams. Each Assessment Anchor is part of a module and has one or more Anchor Descriptors unified under it.

**Anchor Descriptor:** is a specific Anchor Descriptor. The Anchor Descriptor level provides further details that delineate the

scope of content covered by the Assessment Anchor. Each Anchor Descriptor is part of an Assessment Anchor and has one or more Eligible Content unified under it.

**Eligible Content:** The Eligible Content is the most specific description of the content that is assessed on the Keystone Exams. This level is considered the assessment limit and helps educators identify the range of the content covered on the Keystone Exams.

**Content Taught and Assessed-** This column is where districts/teachers note which exam and unit of study the Eligible Content is taught and assessed. **This is explicit. It is easy to identify where the items are taught and assessed in the curricula**

**Time of year is critical – the taught and assessed items need to correspond to the modules. If not they should be moved to matched the Keystone Modules.**

**Taught not Assessed-** This column identifies Eligible Content that is merely “covered” but not really assessed**. This means that the Eligible Content needs to become more explicit in the curriculum and then assessed accordingly.**

**Needs to be Addressed: This column is where content is listed that is found to be missing from the current curriculum and needs to be added.**