High School Semester Final Exam Exemption Guidance

Semester Exemption Guidance for Final Examinations Objective: The exemption guidance is designed to assist students in meeting high expectations, improving regular school attendance, and increasing student awareness of personal responsibility. Research has shown that good attendance by students promotes effective teaching and learning within the classroom as teachers are able to maintain a sound instructional focus and provide a positive learning environment for students when they attend class on a regular basis.

A. Eligibility Criteria for Students

Students may exempt final semester exams for each class based on the following criteria for grades, attendance and discipline.

Exemption criteria

- Grade of 90 and above with 5 or fewer absences
- Grade of 80-89 with 3 or fewer absences
- Grade of 75-79 with 1 or fewer absences
- Any student with a grade of 74 and below will have to take the final.
- Must have a grade of 80 or above in Work Ethic.
- Have not been assigned ISS or OSS during the semester.

Other Considerations:

- Absences are counted up to the day the semester course exam is administered.
- Absences for this exemption are cumulative regardless of whether or not they are excused or unexcused.
- Any student who qualifies for an exemption has the option to take a semester exam.
- Any final exam taken by a student will be calculated as part of the student’s final grade in that course.
- Students who violate school rules or are involved in serious disciplinary problems will lose exemption privileges for final exams.
- Students who have been assigned In School Suspension or Out of School Suspension during the semester are ineligible for final exam exemption.
- School-sanctioned field trips, functions, athletics, and /or school competitions do not count as absences.
- This policy does not exempt students from the requirement to take End of Course (EOC) tests and/or End of Pathway Assessments (EOPA).
- Students in year-long courses will have the opportunity to exempt the midterm project or assessment assigned in December as well as the local final exam for the course in the spring using this same criteria each respective semester.
- Each high school will provide additional guidance prior to finals pertaining to student accountability procedures.