

Semester Exam Exemption Policy

To be implemented in the Spring semester of the 2023-2024 school year

Policy:

A student in grades 9-12 may become exempt from semester exams during the current semester if they meet the following requirements

- Maintain a minimum average of **95** for the semester with no more than **3** excused absences during the semester
- Maintain a minimum average of **90** for the semester with no more than **2** excused absences during the semester
- Maintain a minimum average of **85** for the semester with no more than **1** excused absence during the semester
- Maintain a minimum average of **80** for the semester with no more than **0** absences during the semester

Other criteria

- I. All absences are counted toward exam exemption, with the exception of school related activities (must be school sponsored) and college/career days.
- II. An unexcused absence in any class negates the policy and students will be required to take the exam in that class or classes in which the unexcused absence was recorded
- III. Three tardies in a class per semester will count as one absence for exemption purposes.
- IV. Students assigned to 3 or more days of detention or 1 or more days of I.S.S., O.S.S., or D.A.E.P. may not be exempt in any class during the semester the violation occurred.
- V. **Students violating the Academic Integrity Policy may not be exempt in any class during the semester the violation occurred.**
- VI. Any fines or fees owed to the school or other outstanding financial obligation at the time of the examination will automatically make the student ineligible for exemption in all classes. This includes book fines, library fines, cafeteria charges, fees and dues, etc.
- VII. Any student who is exempt from all classes on a test day will not be required to attend classes that day. Students (9-12) will be required to attend only those classes in which they did not receive exemptions. Please note that students who are NOT exempt for all classes must remain on campus during the class times when they are not testing at a location to be determined. Once on campus, students must remain on campus, until they are complete with all tests for the day

Semester Exam Exemption Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I take the exam even if I am exempt in order to earn a higher grade?

A student can choose the exam or the exemption if they qualify for the exemption. However, once a student chooses to take the exam, the grade they earn on the exam will be the grade that is recorded for the semester exam. Students are encouraged to choose wisely.

Q: What absences count or don't count for exemptions?

Only state-reported absences count against exemptions. Most absences are state reported except for absences that are board or school-approved (UIL competitions, College/Career Days for juniors and seniors, athletic competitions, etc).

Q: If I am exempt from an exam, do I still need to attend for the exam day?

If you are exempt from all classes for a given day you do not need to attend school for that day. However, if you are not exempt from all classes you will need to report to school in time for your first test and remain on campus until you have completed all of your tests for that day.

Q: Are absences counted by day or class period for exemptions?

For exemption purposes, absences are counted period by period. It is possible to be exempt from some semester exams and not others based on attendance and/or grades.

Q: What if I have an absence that I believe is not correct on my child's attendance report?

Parents should monitor the attendance using the parent portal. If they believe there to be an error in the reporting, the student should address the concern with the campus attendance clerk and principal as soon as possible.

Q: What if I check my student out of school in person, does that count against his/her exemptions?

Attendance is coded based on the reason for the absence regardless of how or who checked them out.

Q: Will the half days scheduled count against my student if he/she is absent?

Yes, all school days, even half days, count toward exemptions.

Q: What if I am assigned I.S.S. or other serious disciplinary consequences, will I lose my exemptions?

Yes, students who are assigned ISS, Out-of-school suspension or placed in a Disciplinary Alternative Education Placement (DAEP) school will lose their exemptions for that semester.

Q: Do college/career visit days count against exemptions?

Board policy allows current juniors and seniors to miss up to two days per year for college/career visit purposes. These visits do not count against exemptions provided they do not exceed two.

Q: What is the difference between an excused and unexcused absence?

The district reserves the right to excuse or not excuse the reason for any absence. But generally, absences are excused if written documentation is provided within 3 school days for an illness, medical or dental, appointment, funerals and weddings.

Absences that are for the purpose of personal reasons such as travel, vacations, etc., will not be excused.