

SEMESTER EXAM EXEMPTION POLICY

The goal for this policy is to improve attendance rate for grades 5th -12th to 98%. This policy began for the 2003-2004 school year. Students must maintain an average of 75 with only 1 absence in any class, an 80 with 2 absences in any class, an 85 with 3 absences in any class or a 90 with 4 absences in any class for semester exam exemption in any class for that semester. New students enrolling during the semester will be included in the exam exemption policy. Grades, attendance and discipline will be based upon the information from student's previous school. Students may be exempt from a subject if they pass the Spring STAAR/EOC Test corresponding to that subject, provided they have no more than 3 absences and the student has a 70 or higher semester average in that subject and is currently passing the final six weeks. Students cannot have more than 4 absences per class. Absence for any part of the day counts as an absence in regards to this policy. After receiving the 5th absence in any one class, the student becomes ineligible from ALL semester exams exemptions for that semester. "E" days (school related absence) will not be counted as an absence. "M" days will only be counted as an absence but the student must be in class a portion of that day. Medical absences will only be recorded as "M" days if the student brings a medical note from the doctor office within 3 days from the 73 absence. Otherwise, the absence does not qualify toward the exam exemption for that semester. Absences incurred due to overnight hospitalization will not affect students' eligibility towards exemptions. Documentation from the hospital or doctor's office is required. If a student fails to take all semester exams he/she is required to, they will forfeit exemption possibility for the next semester. Seniors who fail to take a necessary semester exam will not be allowed to participate in the Graduation ceremony. A student will not qualify for semester exam exemption if a student receives more than 3 discipline referrals on record. The following will automatically disqualify the student from semester exam exemptions: Suspension Disciplinary Alternative Education Placement (DAEP) Saturday School Assignment The yearly average must be a 70 or higher for a student to qualify to be exempt during the spring semester exams. Students may choose to take semester exams even if the student qualifies for exam exemption. The student may decide whether or not to accept the grade. In case of an incomplete grade at the end of the grading period, exemptions will be honored based on the average at that time. When the work is made up in a timely manner based upon the Student Handbook and grade average falls below 85, the student must take the exam in that class when classes resume. Teachers will need to average grades on the Friday before exam week to verify which students will be exempt from exams. Teachers must check with office staff before exempting a student from ex to check on student's attendance and discipline issues. Only life threatening absences will be waived regarding the absence guidelines for exam exemption per semester. An Administrator has discretion to look at particular circumstances for semester exam exemptions.