

EOC Test Participation Incentive: Semester Exam Exemption





Policy 5015: Grading System for Grades 6-12

Administrative Rules and Regulations

- **Semester Exams**

- **b. Semester Grades: 9-12**

The following provisions shall apply to school year 2020-2021:

- During the 2020-2021 school year, students in grades 9-12 shall be required to take semester examinations unless otherwise exempt from such examinations in accordance with guidance provided below (see section d. Exemption from Semester Exams). A participation grade shall be given to students who are present for and take the semester exam.
- Semester examination grades shall be used only if it will improve the student's semester average. Semester examination grades shall be excluded from calculation if it will lower the student's semester grade.
- The PowerTeacher Pro gradebook shall be used to calculate the final semester average (with and without the exam) to determine whether the grade will benefit the student.



Policy 5015: Grading System for Grades 6-12

Administrative Rules and Regulations

- **Semester Exams**

- d. Exemption from Semester Exams**

A student having a 90 or higher average for the two terms/quarters in a specific course and having three (3) or fewer excused absences in that same course will be exempted from the semester exam if the student desires. The minimum number of excused absences allowed under this provision may be adjusted by the principal in extenuating circumstances (e.g., long-term illness or hospitalization). When a student is exempted from the examination, the semester average will be the average of the two term/quarter grades and any state-mandated exam as outlined above. ANY UNEXCUSED ABSENCE IN THE COURSE WILL DISQUALIFY THE STUDENT FROM ALL EXEMPTIONS. **EXEMPTIONS APPLY ONLY TO TEACHER-MADE SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS.**

Twelfth (12th) grade students are eligible for exam exemption during both semesters. All other students in high school courses who meet the above requirements may be exempted for only the second semester exam.



Policy 5015: Grading System for Grades 6-12

EXEMPTIONS APPLY ONLY TO TEACHER-MADE SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS.

Students are not exempt from

- AP Exams
- IB Exams
- Pre-AP Exams
- Statewide Dual Credit Challenge Exams
- Industry Credential Exams
- Dual Enrollment Exams



Original Recommendation to Cabinet:

Allow high school students who take all of the EOC tests they are required to take to be exempt from semester exams in all classes

Effective for Semester 2 of Spring 2021



Additional Recommendation to Cabinet:

Allow high school students who take all of their non-teacher-made culminating exams they are expected to take to be exempt from semester exams in all classes

Effective for Semester 2 of Spring 2021



Final Decision:

Allow the added criteria for exemptions (taking EOCs and non-teacher-made culminating exams) but also include that a student who has a failing grade at the time of the semester exam may not be exempt

Effective for Semester 2 of Spring 2021



Policy 5015: Grading System for Grades 6-12

Administrative Rules and Regulations

- **Semester Exams**

- **d. Exemption from Semester Exams**

School Year 2020-2021 Only

Students meeting all State and District requirements for participation in required end-of-course (EOC) exam(s) shall be eligible for exemption from final semester exams. This provision shall not prohibit a student participating in an EOC exam(s) from taking any semester exam(s) if the student desires.

Current Addition In Place



Policy 5015: Grading System for Grades 6-12

Administrative Rules and Regulations

- **Semester Exams**

- d. Exemption from Semester Exams**

School Year 2020-2021 Only

Students with a passing semester average (70%) at the time of the semester exam may be eligible for exemption from final semester exam(s) if the student meets all requirements for participation in

1. required end-of-course (EOC) exam(s); and
2. non-district culminating exams for advanced courses (AP, IB, SWDC, Industry Credentials) or college Dual Enrollment.

This provision shall not prohibit a student participating in an EOC exam(s) from taking any semester exam(s) if the student desires.

New Replacement Language



Examples

- John is an 11th grader taking the regular U.S. History course which has a state EOC test. This is the only course he is taking with an EOC or other non-District culminating exam. If he takes the U.S. History EOC test, he is exempt from all semester exams.
- Angela is an 11th grader taking DC U.S. History which has the Statewide Dual Credit Challenge Exam. She is not taking any courses which have an EOC test, and this is the only course she is taking with a non-District culminating exam. Angela, however, is failing her English III course for semester 2 at the time the semester exam for English III is being given. If she took the DC Challenge Exam, she is exempt from all semester exams except the one for English III.
- Thomas is an 11th grader taking AP U.S. History which has the AP U.S. History Exam. He is not taking any courses which have an EOC test, and this is the only course he is taking with a non-District culminating exam. If he takes the AP Exam, he is exempt from all semester exams.



Examples

- Kongsouly is a 9th grader taking honors English I and honors Geometry which have state EOC tests. She is also taking AP Human Geography which has the AP Human Geography Exam. If she takes both EOC tests and the AP Exam, she is exempt from all semester exams.
- Rodney is a senior taking AP English which has the AP English Exam. He is also taking DE Statistics. He has no courses with a state EOC test. If he takes the AP Exam and the DE Exam that is part of this college course, he is exempt from all semester exams.
- Jerica is a 10th grader taking English II, Algebra II, and Biology I. All of these courses have state EOC tests. She is not taking any other courses with non-District culminating exams (e.g. AP, IB, DC, etc.). Jerica has a failing semester average in Biology I at the time of semester exams. If she took all three of her EOC tests, she is exempt from all semester exams except the one in Biology.

Discussion & Questions

