

# McAllen ISD Exemption Regulation

PURPOSE	<p>The purpose of the exemption regulation is to motivate students to maintain passing grades and attend school on a regular basis. Students who have passing grades and attend school regularly are better prepared students.</p>
EXEMPTIONS FROM FINAL EXAMINATIONS	<p>Semester examinations shall be scheduled in all high school courses. Grade qualifications, absence standards, and the number and type of courses considered for exemption from semester examinations vary by grade level; however, high school students (grades 9-12) must qualify for exemptions in one or more classes each semester. A student qualifying for an exemption may elect or may be directed by a parent to take a semester examination in any course.</p> <p>A student must have performed satisfactorily throughout the semester which results in a high end of term grade. This type of exemption acknowledges our students' academic achievement in their daily assignments, unit tests, projects, six weeks' exams, school benchmarks, class participation and daily attendance.</p> <p>Exemptions are based on semester grades and attendance, on a class-by-class basis. Semester examinations shall be scheduled in all high school courses. Students must abide by grade qualifications and absence standards. The number and type of courses considered for semester exemptions will vary from grade level to grade level. All students will be exempt from final examinations if criteria is met.</p>
GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS	<p>In determining eligibility for exemptions from semester examinations, the following general qualifications shall apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. In calculating absences (for the purpose of determining exemptions from semester examinations), three tardies from a particular class shall constitute an absence from that class.</li><li>2. During the school year, students who are assigned to an Alternative Educational Placement (AEP) for disciplinary reasons shall be ineligible for semester examination exemptions for the semester(s) they are assigned.</li><li>3. Student must not have been placed in ISS two or more days (or parts of days) or received more than 3 disciplinary referrals during a semester.</li></ol>

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4. Student must not have more than 3 excused or unexcused absences for class in which the student is trying to exempt semester examination.
5. Student enrolled in a Dual Enrollment (DE), Advanced Placement (AP), or International Baccalaureate (IB) class(es) must take end of semester college exam/end of year AP/IB exam in order to maintain eligibility for high school semester exemption.
6. To retain exemption status, a student otherwise eligible for an exemption must report to the class on the day of the scheduled semester examination. If the student does not report to the class, a grade of zero will be posted.

## CORE AND ELECTIVE COURSES

For purposes of this policy, core courses include the following:

1. English
2. Mathematics
3. Science
4. Social Studies

**Note:** Students enrolled in Dual Enrollment courses (UTRGV, STC, and UT-OnRamps) must take the semester exam for the college course, but may qualify to exempt the High School semester exam.

Courses other than those listed as core subjects are considered to be electives.

## OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

For purposes of exemption at each grade level, the chart below includes the number of absences, the minimum grade requirement, the number and type of course (core subjects and elective classes), and semester.

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Grade Level	Cohort (Year student entered 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade)	Exemptions Allowed by Semester	
		FALL	SPRING
9 <sup>th</sup>	2017-2018	1 Non-EOC Core 1 Elective (Except AP Courses)	1 Core (Including AP Courses) 1 Elective
10 <sup>th</sup>	2016-2017	1 Non-EOC Core (Except AP Courses) 2 Electives	1 Core (Including AP Courses) 2 Electives
11 <sup>th</sup>	2015-2016	2 Core (Except EOC U.S. History and AP/IB/DE courses) All Electives	2 Core (Including AP Courses) All Electives
12 <sup>th</sup>	2014-2015	All Core (Except AP/IB/DE Courses) All Electives	All

Semester Average		Attendance
70-74	AND	0 absences
75-79	AND	0 - 1 absences
80-89	AND	2 or fewer absences
90-100	AND	3 or fewer absences

## EXCEPTIONS

For exemption purposes, up to four absences per year may be waived for 3 year graduates, graduating juniors and seniors, provided that:

1. The student is absent for the purpose of attending university/college events connected with scholarships, admission, or orientation;
2. The student furnishes the high school principal with a copy of an invitation/appointment letter from the college or university; and
3. The student furnishes the high school principal with written verification of the visit(s).

Students who have lost their exemption status and believe their absences merit consideration, must submit an appeal in writing to the principal and attendance committee.