

2020 - 2021 NEISD Semester Exam Exemption Guidelines Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What is the purpose of the Semester Exam Exemption Guidelines?

The purpose of the Semester Exam Exemption Guidelines is to provide an incentive for students to strive for a high level of academic achievement through either Asynchronous or Synchronous instruction.

2. Can a student exempt Honors, AP, Dual Credit, or OnRamps courses? a. Students may exempt an Honors course exam either semester providing they meet all qualifications.

b. Students shall not exempt the first semester exam of any AP course. Students can only be exempt from taking the second semester exam for AP course(s).

c. Students cannot exempt Dual Credit or OnRamps semester exams either semester.

3. Do teachers have the option of not granting exemptions to any of their students? No. For consistency and equity across the District, students who are eligible under the 2020 – 2021 Semester Exam Exemption Guidelines will be granted the exemption(s).

4. Are students who are assigned to ISS II allowed to exempt exams?

No, a student assigned to ISS II for a discipline infraction is not eligible for exemptions.

5. What is the standard of behavior for an exemption in any class?

The standard for acceptable behavior for an exemption in a particular class is that the student must not have a “U” in conduct for the previous or current grading period as documented on a report card or progress report. The student is not eligible for any exemptions if he/she has been suspended or sent to an off-campus alternative setting.

6. How many classes can a student exempt?

Students may exempt no more than three classes each semester.

7. Can a student choose which classes to exempt?

Yes, as long as they meet the Semester Exam Exemption criteria.

8. Can the campus administration mandate that no exemptions be given to any students? No.

9. Do all teachers have to give a semester examination?

Yes. All teachers must give an assessment on the assigned exam date for a class. The assessment may be in any format, but must measure academic progress.

10. May a teacher exempt all the students in a class?

No, there are no blanket exemptions. Only those students who are eligible for an exemption according to the Semester Exam Exemptions criteria may receive the exemption.

11. May teachers give all or part of an exam earlier in the semester?

Yes. For example, students could write an essay in class the week before the exam date. That essay may count as part of the semester exam. However, the grade on the essay earned by an

12. What if a student submits his/her exemption request after than the deadline? *Students who do not submit the exemption request in Skyward by the deadline are no longer eligible for exemptions.*

13. Can a student submit both first and second semester exam exemptions both semester for the same class?
Yes. The exemption guidelines allow a student to exempt the same course both semesters as long as the course is not an AP course. Students may only be exempt from taking the AP course(s) second semester exam(s).