

R7-08-006 GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS

(Proposed Changes for 2009-2010 School Year)

The high school principals are recommending a change to this regulation for the 2009-2010 school year in response to an unusual flu season that has resulted in many students missing extended periods of school. It is our hope that this change will encourage seniors who are ill, and possibly infectious, to stay home and recover.

All students eligible for graduation in June shall take examinations. Seniors eligible for graduation in June may request an exemption from any second semester examination if the following criteria are met:

- 1) The senior must have a cumulative course average of at least 85 when grades and other specified criteria are compiled to determine exam exemption near the close of the fourth nine weeks.
- 2) The senior must maintain a minimum fourth nine-week average of 85 in the course to be exempted.
- 3) The senior cannot have been absent from the class more than **four times between April 12, 2009 and June 4, 2009** ~~ten times during the school year (semester class – not more than five times)~~. Religious holidays and school-related absences (field trips, SODA, athletics, documented college visits, etc.) do not count within those absences.
- 4) Three unexcused tardies to class equals one absence as related to the exam exemption criteria. Six unexcused tardies to school immediately removes the senior from the eligibility. Six unexcused tardies to an individual class eliminates the student from exam exemption eligibility in that class.
- 5) The senior must attend at least 75% of a class in order to be counted present in that class as related to exam exemption eligibility.
- 6) Any integrity violation which results in disciplinary action removes the student from eligibility.

Note: There is no automatic exemption from any class, elective or otherwise.

Exemptions are granted to seniors only and only with compliance to the criteria listed above or only in catastrophic circumstances and as approved by the principal and the director of secondary education. Nothing in the policy shall be construed to exempt any student from the end-of-course SOL testing requirements set forth in the State Board of Education's Standards of Accreditation, or alter the requirements for earning a diploma.