



Students,

This message is regarding Fall 2021 semester exam exemptions.

**In addition to the current semester exam policy, the district is offering the opportunity for students to earn a BONUS exemption!**

All students that have perfect attendance for the next three weeks, from Monday, November 15th through Friday, December 10th, are eligible to receive a bonus exemption in addition to any exemptions already earned based on the Semester Exam Exemption policy attached to this message.

All students are eligible for the bonus exemption even if you did not qualify under the original policy seen below.

In order to receive this bonus exemption, students must have perfect attendance from 11/15-12/10, earned a 75 as their semester grade, and have not been assigned ISS/OSS/DAEP during the first semester.

Please see the Semester Exam Exemption Policy and Frequently Asked Questions below.

**Semester Exam Exemption Policy  
Abilene ISD 2021 - 2022**



Number of Allowed Exemptions	Eligibility Requirements
<p><b>Freshman</b> 3 courses</p> <p><b>Sophomore</b> 4 courses</p> <p><b>Junior</b> 5 courses</p> <p><b>Senior</b> 6 courses in the fall All in the spring</p>	<p>1. No more than the following number of state reported absences (documented or undocumented) during the semester:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 90+ Average in the class = 2 absences</li> <li>• 80+ Average in the class = 1 absence</li> <li>• 75+ Average in the class = 0 absences</li> </ul> <p>2. No ISS/OSS for current semester.</p> <p>3. No DAEP for any semester (excluding carryover).</p>
<p>The purpose of semester exam exemptions is to encourage students to earn higher grades in their classes and demonstrate excellent attendance. Please be sure you read the information below and the “frequently asked questions” document.</p>	

- Semester exam exemptions are earned class by class.
- Students who are exempt are required to report to the class on the day the exam is administered or they could lose their exemptions!
- 1st six weeks, 2nd six weeks and 3<sup>rd</sup> six weeks grades are averaged to determine the semester “grade” for an exempt student.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** Can I take the exam even if I am exempt in order to earn a higher grade?

**A:** A student can choose the exam or the exemption, if they qualify for the exemption. However, once a student chooses to take the exam, the grade they earn on the exam will be the grade that is recorded for the semester exam. Students are encouraged to choose wisely.

**Q:** What absences count or don't count for exemptions?

**A:** *Only state reported absences count against exemptions. Most absences are state reported except for absences that are board or school approved (UIL competitions, College Days for Jrs and Srs, athletic competitions).* **Note: For the Fall 2021 Semester, COVID Quarantine absences (ACR Attendance Code) will NOT count as absences for exemptions.**

**Q:** If I am exempt from an exam, do I still need to attend for the exam day? **A:** Yes. *Even exempt students need to report to class. The campuses have scheduled alternative activities for students who are exempt.*

**Q:** Are absences counted by day or class period for exemptions?

**A:** *For exemption purposes, absences are counted period by period. It is possible to be exempt from some semester exams and not others based on attendance and/or grades.*

**Q:** What if I have an absence that I believe is not correct on my child's attendance report? **A:** *Parents should monitor the attendance using the parent portal. If you believe there to be an error in the reporting, the student should address the concern with the campus attendance clerk and principal as soon as possible.*

**Q:** How long, after a partial absence for a doctor's appointment, do I have to submit a doctor's note? **A:** *When your student is absent for part of a day for a doctor's appointment, parents have up to three days to submit a doctor's note. It is critical to have the student return with a note the day they return. If a doctor's note is not submitted within three days, the absences cannot be changed and will count against the exemptions. **This is only for partial same day absences where the student attends prior to and/or after the medical appointment. Otherwise, an absence, even with appropriate documentation from a doctor or medical facility, will count against exemptions.***

**Q:** What if I check my student out of school in person, does that count against his/her exemptions? **A:** *Attendance is coded based upon the reason for the absence regardless of how or who checked them out.*

**Q:** Will the half days scheduled count against my student if he/she is absent? **A:** Yes, *all school days, even half days, count toward exemptions.*

**Q:** What if I am assigned I.S.S. or other serious disciplinary consequences, will I lose my exemptions?

**A:** Yes, *students who are assigned ISS, Out-of-school suspension or placed in a Disciplinary Alternative Education Placement (DAEP) school will lose their exemptions for that semester.*

**Q:** Do college visit days count against exemptions? **A:** *Board policy allows current juniors and seniors to miss up to two days per year for college visit purposes. These visits do not count against exemptions provided they do not exceed two.*

**Q:** What if there are extenuating circumstances that I feel should be considered before denying an exemption? **A:** *If you feel there are extenuating circumstances that should be considered before the denial of semester exam exemptions you must submit a written appeal to the campus principal.*