



Gaston County Schools Exam Exemption

In order to encourage excellent attendance and academic performance, a student may be exempt from a teacher-made exam if the following criteria are met:

1. "A" average at the end of the semester, have four or fewer absences, for the semester in the course.
2. "B" average at the end of the semester, have three or fewer absences, for the semester in the course.

The reasons for the absences (excused or unexcused) are not considered in determining exam exemption. The total number of absences (regardless of the reason) and the academic average (for the semester) are the qualifying factors for exam exemption in each class. Assigned days in out-of-school suspension (OSS) are considered absences under Board policy and the exam exemption procedure.

If a student misses more than 15 minutes of a class period, they are coded as absent for that period. For exam exemption purposes only, every three (3) tardies (coming to class late **or** leaving class early) will count as one (1) absence. School-related activities are not considered absences as indicated in Part C of GCS Board Policy 3480; this includes two days per school year for students to visit colleges (coded as 1G in PowerSchool), with prior approval from the principal.

If the student meets the above qualifications and desires to take the teacher-made exam, the exam may improve but not diminish the student's final grade.

Tests required by the state, including End of Course (EOC) tests, College Now (CCP), and NCVPS exams may not be exempted. Students enrolled in a CTE course that offers a CTE End-of-Course state exam, CTE Credential, or CTE Performance-Based Measure (PBM) as the Proof of Learning (POL), are all assessments not eligible for exemption. Students taking an Advanced Placement (AP) course taught by a Gaston County Schools instructor may be exempt from the teacher-made final for the course if the above criteria are met. However, AP exams administered by the College Board are required to earn college credit and are not eligible for exemption.

Students that meet the above criteria to be exempt from a teacher-made exam, will be expected to "check-in" through Canvas on the day of the exam to be counted as present for that day.