

# ***GCSSD Final Exam Exemption Policy 2021***

Final exams are given at the end of each course and count a percentage of a student's final grade. Final exams will not be given early unless approved by the principal.

## **Final Exams: Exemption Policy for Grades 9-12**

The student will receive an exam exemption if she/he meets the following criteria in a **semester-long course**:

**A average** and not more than **four attendance events**

**B average** and not more than **three attendance events**

**C average** and not more than **two attendance events**

The student will receive an exam exemption if she/he meets the following criteria in a **quarter-long course**:

**A average** and not more than **two attendance events**

**B average** and not more than **two attendance events**

**C average** and not more than **one attendance events**

Averages reflect the overall semester average (S1/S2). Absences are counted up to one week from the beginning of an exam cycle. Attendance events include all excused/unexcused absences, tardies, early check-outs, etc. Tardies to school and early check-outs from school will count in the attendance event totals. Early check-out is defined as any check-out prior to 2:55 PM. School approved field trips and school approved postsecondary visits will not count as attendance events. Should students have to quarantine, approved quarantine days will not count as attendance events. A certificate/note from a physician/health department may be required to support any claim for quarantine.

Absences are on a class-by-class basis, not just whole day absences. An exemption from a final exam is not granted if during the semester the student is sent to ISS (a minimum of 4 total blocks or 1 full day), the Alternative Learning Center or receives a suspension. Exemptions are for end-of-quarter/semester teacher exams. If an exam exemption occurs in a quarter course, the quarter grade will become the final average. If an exam exemption occurs in a semester-long non TNReady course, the final average will be comprised as follows: Q1/Q3 = 42% and Q2/Q4 = 58%. Please note that per Tennessee State Board of Education Policy 2.103, TNReady scores must count a minimum of 15% of the overall grade in the course. Due to this fact, students eligible for an exam exemption in a TNReady course will be able to exempt the chapter or unit test given on the final exam day. The final average for all students in a TNReady course will be Q1/Q3 = 42%, Q2/Q4 = 43%, with TNReady counting 15%. The TNReady grade will be signified in E2 in the fall and E4 in the spring. Students **must not** have a financial obligation (school/athletic debt) one week prior to the day of the exempted exam.

### Special Circumstances

- ❖ Students who register after the fifth day of a semester are not eligible for final exam exemptions.
- ❖ Students enrolled in a course that has a TNReady End of Course exam must take the EOC.
- ❖ Any student who qualifies for an exemption has the option to take the final exam. By choosing to take the final exam, the exam score will count for the student.
- ❖ A student enrolled in dual-enrollment or local dual-credit courses will be required to take the final exam per the policy of the credit-issuing school. Students in local dual credit Personal Finance and Wellness must still take the challenge exam provided by Jackson State Community College. Students in statewide dual credit courses must take the challenge exam. Challenge exams will not be given on the date/block of the final exam for the course.
- ❖ Students will be excused from school on the day and block of the final exam for the course in which they are exempt. Students missing any portion of a school day for which they are not exempt will need to use a parent note to cover the absence. If students have exhausted all parent notes, this portion of the day will be marked as unexcused.
- ❖ Students in courses that do not administer exams (Office Assistant, Peer Tutor, etc.) will be excused for the block on which exams are scheduled per the schedule below.

<b>Exam Cycle</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Blocks</b>	<b>Debt/Attendance/Grade Deadline</b>
<b>Quarter 1 Final Exams</b>	<b>Tue., Oct. 12</b>	<b>Any</b>	<b>September 28 (previous week is Fall Break)</b>
<b>Semester 1 Final Exams</b>	<b>Thur., Dec. 16 Fri., Dec 17</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>December 9</b>
<b>Quarter 3 Final Exams</b>	<b>Wed., Mar. 10</b>	<b>Any</b>	<b>March 3</b>
<b>Senior Semester 2 Final Exams</b>	<b>Wed., May 4 Thur., May 5</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>April 27</b>
<b>Underclassmen Semester 2 Final Exams</b>	<b>Mon., May 23 Tue., May 24</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>May 16</b>