Carthage High School



2026-27 Exemption Guidelines for Final Exams

Students may qualify for semester exam exemptions based on a combination of academic performance, attendance, and conduct. To be eligible for an exemption, students must meet all established grade and attendance requirements for the course throughout the semester.

In addition, students must maintain satisfactory conduct and may not have discipline infractions that would disqualify them from exemption eligibility. Students may have no more than three (3) documented dress code violations during the semester.

Exemptions are intended to recognize and reward students who demonstrate consistent academic effort, responsible attendance, appropriate behavior, and a commitment to their education. All exemption requirements must be met for a student to qualify.

Eligibility Requirements Overview

To qualify for a **final exam** exemption in a class, a student must meet **both** of the following requirements:

- Have **no more than three (3) total absences** during the semester.
- Have a **semester average of 80 or higher** in the class for which the exemption is requested. This semester average is calculated using the student's **three six-weeks grading period averages** for that semester.

!!Important Note

Both **excused and unexcused absences** count toward the three-absence limit. However, **school-related absences**, such as UIL competitions, athletic events, field trips, and other approved school activities, **do not count** against a student's exemption eligibility.

Additional Guidelines

1. **STAAR EOC Courses**
   (Algebra I, Biology, English I, English II, and U.S. History)
   - **Fall Semester:** All students enrolled in a STAAR EOC course must take the final exam, regardless of attendance or grade.
   - **Spring Semester:** Students may qualify for a final exam exemption as long as they have taken the required STAAR EOC exam and meet all other exemption requirements.
2. **Dual Credit Courses**

    - Dual Credit courses must follow **Panola College policies**. Any final exam exemptions are at the discretion of the college instructor.
3. **Tardies**
    - For exemption purposes, three **(3) tardies in a class will count as one (1) absence** in that class.
4. **Make-Up Work / Academic Standing**
    - Students must be **academically in good standing** to qualify for a final exam exemption. This means they may not have any missing major assignments or tests.
    - Teacher verification/signature is required to confirm that the student meets this requirement.

Final Exam Day Attendance

- **All students must report to school for the regular school day**, including students who are exempt from one or more final exams.
- During an exam period for which a student is exempt, the student must report to the **Commons for attendance check-in**.
- After checking in, exempt students will report to the **gym(s) for planned activities** during that exam period.
- **Attendance will be taken each period in the Commons.**
- Students are responsible for reporting to the Commons and signing in with the attendance officers each period they are exempt.
- **Failure to check in and sign in with the attendance officers will result in a grade of 0 on the final exam for that class.**