



2020-2021 GPA EXEMPT COURSES INFORMATION

INFORMATION REGARDING EXEMPT COURSES

Students are encouraged to pursue their areas of special talents and interest to enrich their academic experience. Courses may be taken on a GPA-exempt basis as established by Board Local Policy EIC and identified in this brochure. Courses listed below require a prerequisite and an extra/co-curricular component outside the school day throughout the course. The following courses have been identified as GPA-exempt eligible for this school year:

❖ Career Technical Education Courses (With prerequisite and FFA participation in LDE, CDE, or livestock show):

- 8085V EMT
- 8120 Professional Standards in Agribusiness
- 8122 AG Structures Design and Fabrications
- 8125 Prac.in Agriculture, Food & Natural Res.
- 8127 Agribusiness Management and Marketing
- 8136 AG Equipment Design and Fabrication
- 8141 Livestock Production
- 8144 Advanced Animal Science
- 8145 Equine Science
- 8148V Vet Assisting
- 8520 Career Prep I
- 8521 Career Prep II
- 8524 Career Prep I Extended
- 8525 Career Prep II Extended
- 8609 Practicum of Business
- 8611 Practicum of Business Extended
- 8751V/8752V Cosmetology Design and Color Theory/Cosmetology II

❖ Athletics (Continuous enrollment (year 2, 3, 4) in any designated athletic course regardless of sport; **does not include PE**)

- ❖ Band
- ❖ Cheerleading
- ❖ Choir
- ❖ Dance Colorguard
- ❖ Dance Team
- ❖ Debate
- ❖ Journalism
- ❖ Oral Interpretation
- ❖ Orchestra
- ❖ ROTC
- ❖ Theatre
 - (Technical Theatre, Theatre Arts, Theatre Production)

*** Consult the Course Catalog for prerequisites and course descriptions.**

HOW ARE GRADES HANDLED IN A GPA EXEMPT COURSE?

Students who are eligible and choose to take one of these courses for a GPA Exempt grade:

- Will receive a numerical grade all year on the report card.
- Will receive the actual numeric grade with a comment or label indicating "GPA exempt" on the Academic Achievement Record (transcript).
- Will receive credit for these courses, but also have these courses excluded from the computation of GPA and class rank.

- Exemptions are granted on a semester basis.

WHAT ARE THE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR THESE COURSES?

- The numerical grade earned will be reported on the report card.
- Students must complete the extra/co-curricular components of the course.
- Students are expected to complete all assigned work in a GPA-exempt course including tests and semester exams. Students eligible to exempt semester exams may choose to exempt a GPA-exempt course.

HOW WILL GRADES IN A GPA EXEMPT COURSE AFFECT ELIGIBILITY FOR EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES?

The numerical grades earned in a GPA Exempt course will be used to determine eligibility for participation in all UIL or school-sponsored activities. In addition, numerical grades will also be used to determine honor roll each six-weeks; for qualifying criteria used in selection of students for various positions such as dance team officers, class officers, exam exemptions, etc.; for eligibility for academic awards, including admission to organizations such as National Honor Society; etc.

IF A STUDENT EXEMPTS A COURSE DURING ONE YEAR BUT DOES NOT ENROLL IN THE COURSE DURING THE NEXT DO THEY LOSE THE EXEMPT STATUS FOR THE FIRST YEAR?

No. Each year's exemption stands alone.

WHAT IF A STUDENT DROPS THE EXEMPT COURSE?

As long as a student completes the course with a B average or better for which a GPA waiver is granted, the course will be GPA exempt. Students are expected to complete a full-year course for which a GPA exemption has been approved. In extenuating circumstances where a student is approved to drop a GPA-exempt course after the first semester is complete, the student received the first semester credit as GPA exempt. However, the remaining 0.5 GPA exemption cannot be applied to another course during second semester or following year. The requested 1.0 GPA exemption is considered to be fully expended. If a student drops a full-year course before the close of the first semester for which a GPA exemption has been approved per established guidelines [see EIA (REGULATION)], the new course the student enters is not eligible for a GPA exemption. In this case, the GPA exemption is available for use the following semester/year, if requested and approved according to established guidelines.

DOES A STUDENT HAVE TO MAINTAIN ENROLLMENT IN A SINGLE ATHLETIC SPORT TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR AN EXEMPTION?

No. Any athletic enrollment can qualify.

CAN A STUDENT TAKE ART OR DANCE COURSES AS GPA EXEMPT COURSES?

Dance Team and Dance Colorguard are the only GPA exempt courses offered. No Art courses are GPA exempt.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO TAKE A COURSE ON A GPA EXEMPT BASIS?

- Students must have an overall B average in the prerequisite course for elective courses for which they are seeking a waiver.
- Students must maintain a B average in the GPA exempt course to qualify and maintain GPA exempt eligibility.
- Students must obtain approval from their parents, teachers of the course, and the counselor.
- Students may take a maximum of three (3) credits on a GPA Exempt basis during their high school career.
- Students understand they must be in their 2nd, 3rd, or 4th full year of continuous enrollment in the same program to meet eligibility for GPA-exempt status.

HOW DO STUDENTS ENROLL IN A GPA EXEMPT COURSE?

Students interested in taking one of the GPA Exempt courses must discuss this option with the counselor at the beginning of the course. If the student meets all of the criteria, they must:

1. Complete the GPA Exempt application, which can be found in the counselor's office.
2. Have the application signed by the parent and teacher.

3. Return the application to the counselor **no later than the end of the third (3rd) week of each semester**. At this time, if all criteria are met, it will be approved and a course change will be made to reflect enrollment in a GPA Exempt course.
4. Once the student makes the decision to take a course as GPA-exempt, the decision is final and cannot be changed.
5. Students enrolled in full-year courses do not need to reapply during the second semester.
6. Students, including move-in students, who miss the deadline for application for the first semester, may apply for exemption for the second semester if they meet the criteria.

AN APPLICATION MUST BE FILLED OUT AND SIGNED BY THE STUDENT, THE PARENT, AND THE TEACHER.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE YOUR TEACHER, COACH, DIRECTOR OR COUNSELOR.

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