



## **Final Exam Policy Survey**

**August 2010**

**Results**

Pinellas County Schools is reexamining student final exam policies for high school students. The Pinellas County School Board requested a brief survey of high school students, parents, and teachers to seek opinions about key issues related to these policies. This survey is only intended for high school students, parents of high school students, and high school teachers.

Pinellas County Schools placed automated calls through the ParentConnect phone system to 2,000 randomly selected parents of high school students asking them to fill out an anonymous six-question survey, posted online. Calls were also made to 1,200 high school teachers. They were instructed to go to the Pinellas County Schools' website to find the link to take them to the survey.

The 833 respondents consisted of 427 high school teachers, 302 parents/guardians of high school students, 104 high school students.

# FINAL EXAM POLICY SURVEY 2010 - RESULTS

## DISTRICT TOTALS:

Questions:	Answers:	TOTALS	%
1. Should a high school student's course grade be a factor in deciding whether the student is required to take semester final exams?	YES	673	84.2%
	NO	126	15.8%
	Total	799	100.0%
2. Should a high school student be required to take semester final exams in all courses?	YES	306	38.3%
	NO	494	61.8%
	Total	800	100.0%
3. Should a high school student's course attendance be a factor in deciding whether the student is required to take semester final exams?	YES	585	73.8%
	NO	208	26.2%
	Total	793	100.0%
5. Should a high school student with five or more absences in a course be required to take a final exam in that course?	YES	580	73.2%
	NO	212	26.8%
	Total	792	100.0%
6. Should a high school student with five or more absences in any course be required to take the final exams for <u>all</u> courses?	YES	357	45.0%
	NO	437	55.0%
	Total	794	100.0%
<b>4. Please review the following statements regarding final semester exams for high school students. Please check all statements that reflect your opinion.</b>			
Final semester exams help students learn how to prepare for final exams in the future (end-of-course exams, post-secondary school exams, professional exams)	YES	594	74.6%
Final semester exams help students learn important test taking strategies	YES	445	55.9%
Final semester exams help students stay engaged in their coursework throughout the term because they know they must take final exams	YES	548	68.8%
Final semester exams do not benefit any high school student	YES	26	3.3%
Final semester exams do not benefit most high school students	YES	148	18.6%

# FINAL EXAM POLICY SURVEY 2010 - RESULTS

## BREAKDOWN BY RESPONDENTS:

<b>I AM A:</b>		
	COUNT	%
PARENT / GUARDIAN OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT	302	35.4
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT	104	12.2
HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER	427	50.1
Total	833	100.0

		<b>I am a:</b>					
		PARENT / GUARDIAN OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT		HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT		HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER	
<b>Questions:</b>	<b>Answers:</b>	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
1. Should a high school student's course grade be a factor in deciding whether the student is required to take semester final exams?	YES	249	86.8%	84	86.6%	340	81.9%
	NO	38	13.2%	13	13.4%	75	18.1%
	Total	287	100.0%	97	100.0%	415	100.0%
2. Should a high school student be required to take semester final exams in all courses?	YES	79	27.4%	8	8.2%	219	52.8%
	NO	209	72.6%	89	91.8%	196	47.2%
	Total	288	100.0%	97	100.0%	415	100.0%
3. Should a high school student's course attendance be a factor in deciding whether the student is required to take semester final exams?	YES	178	62.2%	43	45.3%	364	88.3%
	NO	108	37.8%	52	54.7%	48	11.7%
	Total	286	100.0%	95	100.0%	412	100.0%
5. Should a high school student with five or more absences in a course be required to take a final exam in that course?	YES	157	55.3%	36	37.1%	387	94.2%
	NO	127	44.7%	61	62.9%	24	5.8%
	Total	284	100.0%	97	100.0%	411	100.0%
6. Should a high school student with five or more absences in any course be required to take the final exams for <u>all</u> courses?	YES	87	30.6%	12	12.4%	258	62.5%
	NO	197	69.4%	85	87.6%	155	37.5%
	Total	284	100.0%	97	100.0%	413	100.0%

FINAL EXAM POLICY SURVEY 2010 - RESULTS

<b>4. Please review the following statements regarding final semester exams for high school students.</b>  <b>Please check all statements that reflect your opinion.</b>		I am a:					
		PARENT / GUARDIAN OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT		HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT		HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER	
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Final semester exams help students learn how to prepare for final exams in the future (end-of-course exams, post-secondary school exams, professional exams) Respondents = 594	YES	198	33.4%	42	7.07%	354	59.6%
Final semester exams help students learn important test taking strategies Respondents = 445	YES	139	31.2%	26	5.8%	280	62.9%
Final semester exams help students stay engaged in their coursework throughout the term because they know they must take final exams Respondents = 548	YES	151	27.6%	40	7.3%	357	65.1%
Final semester exams do not benefit any high school student Respondents = 26	YES	7	26.9%	16	61.5%	3	11.5%
Final semester exams do not benefit most high school students Respondents = 148	YES	64	43.2%	45	30.4%	39	26.4%

FINAL EXAM POLICY SURVEY 2010 - RESULTS

7. COMMENTS (BY RESPONDENT GROUP):

<b>PARENT / GUARDIAN OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT</b>
#1 You must bring back linking attendance to whether or not final exams are taken. Also, lower the number of unexcused absences to 4 or less. Kids need to be in school and if they are sick, etc. there is no reason a parent cannot call the school. #2 I like the current option of taking either a midterm or final in all classes, as long as the student has an "A" or "B" for the class. This is a great incentive to keep up and get good grades. I do not think question #3 above, choice #3 is an incentive. Requiring all finals will not encourage good work throughout the year. This does not make sense. Who works hard at something to achieve something negative? Reward good work by giving the option to take either a midterm or final.
5 absences is not that many when you consider time off for college trips and interviews plus illness or surgery that may keep a student out a little longer than 5 days. If a student has the grades to exempt exam attendance should not be a factor.
5+ unexcused absences only
A "Yes" answer to No. 2 dictates the answers to Nos. 4 through 6.
A high school exam should be no more than 25% of their final grade BUT must come with a review sheet provided as a study guide by the instructor. This is very important to student success and recall for the exam.
A student with an A or B average in the course and 5 or less absences should be able to exempt the semester exam for that course
A student's grade in the class should be the only determining factor as to whether the final exam should be taken. Only students with an A in the class should be exempt from the final exam.
A student's grade in the course should be the main factor in determining whether or not they need to take the final exam.
Absences should be reviewed to see if it one occurrence of several days (ex: flu) versus a day here and day there is probably not related to a contagious illness.
Absence reason need to be taken into consideration. My child would come to school sick very ill just to fulfill the requirement, it encourages them to come to school sick if they want to exempt an exam and many would do that. My child had swine flu for 8 days last year and did not want to miss too much and wanted to come to school with it, very sad!
Absences are not indicative of knowledge or achievement (or lack of). Competency/grades are more important. Do not penalize a student who has absences (sports, life experiences) but superior grades. Exams should not be mandatory - they are not a tell all.
Absences are unpredictable, therefore using attendance as a qualifier for exemption would put many good students at an unfair advantage.
Absences should be excused on a case by case basis. If the absences can be validated and are not from missing busses or skipping classes. I don't believe a final exam should be required for Drama or Gym. Excessive absences should have consequences. IE: Pick up trash around the school, write an essay, ect.. Also, maybe in excess of 10 absences instead of 5.
ALL students should be required to take ALL exams, if they want to pass and earn credit for the course.
All students should be required to take exams for all subjects. Not doing so, should have NEVER been considered!!
all students should have to take final exams. There should not be any exemptions from them either.

## FINAL EXAM POLICY SURVEY 2010 - RESULTS

All students should take all exams for every course. ABSOLUTELY NO EXEMPTIONS!!!!
All students should take exams, schools need to prepare students for college and post secondary work.
all students should take final exams
Any student who can maintain an A for the entire year should be able to opt out of final exams. A B should not be able to opt out. The teacher should determine if a student is not able due to absences. This survey does not capture many of the issues, it is too basic.
As long as the students course grade is A,B, or C it should be optional. Quest. 2 only in courses that are D's or F's. Quest.4 not if they are passing with A,B,C Quest 5 if passed each semester with A,B,C not necessary. Quest.6 not really fair if they have passed all classes during school year and have had no absences in other classes.
Attendance is important for it shows a willingness to learn as well as a positive attitude. I believe that student having a C with good attendance should be able to exempt if they are happy with that grade....the grade is between the parents and the child...in my household I would encourage my child to take the final to possibly raise their grade.
Attendance is very important, however, a child with more than 5 absences with a doctor's note and an A in the class should not be forced to take the exam solely based on attendance.
Attendance should definitely play a part in a student's final grade. Students that are rewarded for good attendance/grades tend to work harder the entire semester.
Being exempt from a final exam should be an option and a motivating factor which is earned by those students who take learning seriously by attending school regularly and maintaining all class work ar a B level or higher! This means others who need to raise their grades have the option to do so by scoring high on the final exam. Thank you for considering concerned parent's input on this important matter!
Education is critical. This decision needs to be evaluated carefully.
Either make final exams mandatory for all students or optional for all.
Eliminate exam exemptions and make all students take the test. That's how it works in the real world.
Exam exemptions is a great motivation for students to keep high grades. Weekly tests should be enough to determine that students know the subject. Weekly tests also should help with test taking strategies and as long as weekly test build on what is already taught they would also be preparing student for end-of-course exams and the reward for doing good on weekly exams is final exam exemption. Attendance should be a factor, but their should also be exemptions to this 5 day rule. Just one bout with the flu, or death of a family member and the students hard work can be for naught. If the student can still keep their grades up then they must know the material. I feel attendance would be better as 7 days instead of 5. This would facilatate plenty of time to get over illiness or family emergencies.
Exams lead to cramming info at the last minute - not LEARNING! I managed to do well in college and I did not have all these exams. My daughter achieves high grades, yet, I am still against final exams. What does attendance have to do with the need to take exams? My daughter has physical problems that keep her from school, not from studying. Basing exams on attenance about says it all - PCSB is using exams for punishment, not as a learning tool. I am 100% against exams. 100%.

## FINAL EXAM POLICY SURVEY 2010 - RESULTS

Exams should be given if the child doesn't have an A or B average for the whole courses; what if a child has medical problems that require more than five or more absences? What happens then, if have an A or B average in all classes?
Exams SHOULD help prepare students for future courses but due to teachers inconsistency in presenting information, kids don't know what to study. Semester report, assignment and test scores should be enough. If students can get A's and B's and not be there, why require they take an exam. They obviously have mastered the subject. The system in place is broken, but I, and the kids, have whiplash from the constant changes from year to year. THINK THINGS THROUGH, MAKE A PLAN, AND STICK TO IT!!!!
Excused absences for sick students should grant the students more than 5 absences. These should be documented by the parent/dr note. I feel that students should NOT come to school sick. Random absences should carry the penalty of taking the class' exam.
excused absences should not be counted against the student--what about athletic events or field trips--we will also be forcing students to attend school when ill causing many others to be sick.
Final exams carry too much weight. The final exam grade should not count as much as a grading period grade. For that reason, I'm against final exams.
Final Exams should be required in all courses. There should be a comprehensive assessment of knowledge gained. Students should have to PASS the exam to pass the course. That is accountability.
For question # 1 if the students' grade is an "A" or above they should be exempt from the exam. Also, you want to make sure that the student can show that they do know the course. I don't want a student to be penalized if they are poor test takers. They could have good grades but test scores are low and that brings them down. I don't want to see this affect that.
For questions 4, 5 and 6, I believe there is a difference between an excused and an unexcused absence. My daughter missed a lot of school last year due to illness but was in contact with her teachers to make up all missed work. Had the old policy been in place she would have had to take all her exams, even in the classes in which she earned A's. PCS college bound students are competing with college bound students from other districts. Do they have similar exam policies so there is a level playing field? Along the subject of attendance, students exempt from the FCAT should not have to attend school during testing. There is nothing for them to do.
Good attendance and good grades should earn exam exemption. There is no reason to expect other than an A if the student has an A average in the class and has attended. Excellent students don't need the "training" less successful students may acquire from the exam. They can always take the test for "grins" if they deem it a beneficial activity. Maybe a practice option could be offered as well as an exemption. Then high achieving students could take the test without it affecting their grades as a self-assessment.
Grades should be the only factor in taking the final exams. If a student is working hard all year and getting good grades, they should have the option of exemption. Truly if a student is not in class, chances are they won't be pulling a high enough grade to be exempt.
Helps students stay engaged in their course work throughout the term to prepare for the exam ONLY IF THEIR POOR GRADES SHOW THEY NEED MOTIVATION TO STAY ENGAGED!!!!!!!!!!!! Those who attend regularly and maintain good grades have earned the exemption from the exam. This will motivate students to complete their homework and study for quizzes and tests.
I agree with the proposed A or B every six weeks plus 4 or fewer absences to exempt from final exams.



## FINAL EXAM POLICY SURVEY 2010 - RESULTS

<p>I believe that a student who is consistently maintaining an A or B average in a class should be allowed to exempt the final exam. A student who has had excused absences because of illness or bereavement, but who are still able to maintain good grades should still be rewarded for their achievements. Those who wish to take finals for experience are still allowed to do so, but I have seen one of my own work very hard for the reward of exempting a final. I can't believe he is the only one who receives motivation from this. Not all students are great test takers and this allows these students to still be able to succeed. We need to figure out how to reach, and help as many students to become successful as possible.</p>
<p>I believe that decision should be based on factors including: students overall school behavior and participation as well as if they are enrolled in AP courses. Test taking is not the only way to evaluate students success.</p>
<p>I believe that if a student knows that if they can exempt an exam if they earn a certain grade they will strive harder to earn said grade and in the process take more away from the class such as better study habits, improvements in note taking skills, and better accountability and work ethic.</p>
<p>I believe the count should be 9 days (10%) in a semester. If a child misses 9 or more days in a class per semester (9=10%) they should be required to take an exam.</p>
<p>I didn't answer 5 &amp; 6 because of 4. I do think there should be a number, maybe 5, but not less than 5, absences to require an exam in 1 course. But NOT 2 absences...</p>
<p>i do not believe a student needs to take an exam to pass a grade. I do however feel that test should be given weekly over the things they have learned. some students freeze on exams and it actually hurts the grade. I know i was one of them.</p>
<p>I feel a student with an A or B in a course should have the option to exempt final exams if they have less than five absences. It's an incentive to go to class. It works for my child.</p>
<p>I feel attendance should be the primary factor in determining if an exam is required, I am just not sure if five is the correct number, I believe the number used to be higher. Students obviously learn more by engaging in daily class work and discussions than they do cramming for an exam, so I think this is a good way to encourage attendance. I do not think that the exam should be used as a requirement for credit, it should just be averaged into the grade - one bad test result should not negate the work of a whole semester.</p>
<p>I feel the absences are way to liberal IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS</p>
<p>I have never liked the "I am exempt from taking this exam" statment from my kids. If they are doing their work, paying attention in class and staying engaged, final exams should not be an issue. No final exam means they can learn just enough to pass the next test, then forget it.</p>
<p>I have noticed that the exams do not always match the material they covered. The school board needs to reduce the amount of testing: There are FCAT, SAT, ACT etc., all these kids do is take tests. So being able to exempt the final is a break for them. They are being burnt out on tests.</p>
<p>I like the current policy of grades being an indicator of whether or not a student should take an exam--it works like that in college--if you have a high grade you can often opt out of final exams. Some students have absences due to sports and other school activities and it's unfair to penalize those students. A student's grade in a course is much more indicative of understanding the course material than whether they have been present a certain amount of days.</p>

## FINAL EXAM POLICY SURVEY 2010 - RESULTS

<p>I love how it is now, Grades and attendance are an incentive to keep doing good knowing they don't have to take it if they are both good in attendance and grades.</p>
<p>I think attendance should not reflect the student's work ethic or abilities to get a good grade. Many students get sick and have personal family reasons for why they may not be able to attend school. However many of these kids retain and work hard for their good grades. Attendance should be a factor in the exam policy.</p>
<p>I think every student should be required to take final exams. Finals shouldn't be a problem for the students who have done well all year and for the ones who struggle it should be a time to enhance their study skills. The responsibility has always belonged to the student to make up the work for any absences during the school year, with the encouragement and assistance of teachers, staff, and parents. Thanks for asking!</p>
<p>I think exemptions should stay within the system. If the student met the attendance requirement and grade requirement they should be able to exempt the final exam as long as they took their mid-term. Basically, go back to the testing format from two years ago.</p>
<p>I think FCAT should be eliminated for all schools. The kids do enough testing midterms and final exams are enough!!!</p>
<p>I think final exams only bring stress and stomach to the throat feelings. I know they did for me and I will never forget that feeling. If teachers could prepare the kids for taking them instead of FCAT for the school grade would be better. Every student is different!!</p>
<p>I think final exams should be eliminated. With the pressures of FCAT, students have too many exams to worry about.</p>
<p>I think if the student has more than 5 unexcused absences they should be required to take the exam in that specific course. If they are excused it shouldn't count against them.</p>
<p>I think students should be required to take final exams.</p>
<p>I think that exams should be taken only if the student has not missed more than 5 days and maintains an A or B average grade per class</p>
<p>I think that I am most displeased with number of questions on the final exams more than the fact that my son did or did not have to take them...most tests had 75-150 questions, I think that number is a bit ridiculous.</p>
<p>I think that if a student demonstrates that they know the material with grades of A or B...they should not have to take that exam. Even with absences...A or B shows they know the material.</p>
<p>I think when determining absences, those that are excused due to medical conditions are unavoidable and the student should not be penalized.</p>
<p>I think you need to distinguish between excused, and un-excused absences. 5 excused absences is probably ok, but 10 absences in total probably is not</p>
<p>If a high school student maintains an 85% average through a given semester, the student should be able to take the exam for a better grade but the test results should not bring the final grade down. It should be a choice to take the final exam not a requirement if a student has maintained an 85% or above.</p>
<p>If a student demonstrates good grades during the semester, regardless of absences, he/she should be rewarded by not having to take a final. He/she has shown mastery of the material throughout the semester. Some good students do not test well.</p>
<p>If a student earns straight A's all year, it is my opinion they shouldn't have to take final exams, they already have proven themselves consistently throughout the year. Students with grades less than an A have not mastered the course, and it is my opinion they should have to take final exams.</p>

## FINAL EXAM POLICY SURVEY 2010 - RESULTS

<p>If a student has an A average in the course, he/she should not be required to take the final exam, no matter how many absences or tardies they have. Some students have illnesses and doctor's appointments that prevent them from attending school. It will be cumbersome and add unnecessary paperwork to keep track of the number of excused versus unexcused tardies and absences for the purpose of exam exemption. If a student has an A average, he/she has mastered the subject and it will motivate the students to work hard for an A. It's simple, if a student misses too many classes, they will not be able to get an A and will be required to take the final exam.</p>
<p>If a student has an A or B in a class he/she should not be required to take the exam. Also the exam should not punish a student. If a student does poorly on an exam, it should not hurt his grade. He should be able to finish the semester with his standing grade without the exam factored in. If a student does well on the exam it should help his grade. That way if a student does miss too many days because of illness or family issues, they are not punished with one test determining his or her final grade.</p>
<p>If a student has excelled in a class &amp; has a good grade then opting out for the exam is an option. Our students already have enough STRESS on them with having to pass the FCAT &amp; then go on to take SAT's &amp; ACT's . Maybe if they pass their final exams then they should be able to opt out of the FCAT!</p>
<p>If a student has kept up his or her grades and completed the majority of the coursework, then I believe he or she has learned the material. School is supposed to be about learning, not about test taking. The course work learned each year is touched upon again in the following years as they are building blocks for additional learning. We put way too much emphasis on tests, including final exams. Additionally, if someone is NOT a good test taker, but did very well during the course throughout the year, the final exam grade can skew the students grade and all the effort he or she has put in all year. I think the opportunity to exempt finals is a great idea and motivator to do well throughout the year.</p>
<p>If a student has missed five days or less (all excused with note ) and has an A or B grade they should have the privilege of no exams. I feel if they are in class and doing their work they should not have to be lumped in with the kids who don't or won't attend class . Why punish good kids along with kids and parents who just don't care.</p>
<p>If a student is able to maintain a high grade in a course, regardless of absences, the student should be rewarded by exempting out of the exam. The exemption is a great incentive for keeping the grade up throughout the course. Believe me, it works, that's one reason my daughter has a 4.6 gpa.</p>
<p>If a student is doing well (A's and B's) in a course, they should not be required to take both a midterm and a final.</p>
<p>If a student is performing well in school absences should not be a factor if the absences are excused.</p>
<p>If a student shows competency throughout grading periods, exam should not be required. Competency should be reflected in grades (A or B) in subject. If absence affects grades, then student might have to take exam, but it would not be based solely on absences.</p>
<p>If absences are excused due to medical conditions, it should not be limited to five.</p>
<p>If my son has the grades during the semester then I feel he should be able to exempt the final exam.</p>
<p>If students are able to get an A in the class why do they need to take an exam? They have already learned how to study and hence have an A. Maybe make a limit to how many you can exempt each semester. Some finals end up hurting the GPA in the end. Exempting exams gives motivation to students!</p>

## FINAL EXAM POLICY SURVEY 2010 - RESULTS

If the 5+ absences are unexcused they should take the final; however, if they are excused they should be able to exempt.
If the child demonstrates average or better grades, it shouldn't matter how many absences they have.
If the student has a B or better in a class regardless of attendance, then they have learned the course material. Absences happen for many reasons and should not penalize a student, after all schools are germ magnets.
If we are doing this in lieu of FCAT... I feel that many final exams are important for students as long as they are "Weighted" appropriately. The "weighting" of the final exams needs to be across the board in all subjects. Final exams need to be fair/relevant and reflect what was learned in the course. Students missing too many days of school should be required to take final exams, as they are missing much of the curriculum in the classroom. I think that students that participate in class, attend regularly and earn A's could be exempt from taking final exams. This is just one opinion. Thank you.
If you have a child with special needs and accommodations, that needs to be factored into whether it will really benefit the student or not. If you also have a child that does not do well on written tests, they need an option of a verbal exam. It might just be more beneficial that way.
If you want the kids to learn go back to the old way of teaching & procedures. Without exams and practical applications kids are not prepared for college or life. In high school if exams are given make sure the teachers can teach! (Many are only there for a pay check.)
In lieu of final exams, I'd rather see more courses requiring an end-of-term project. Exams alone, in my opinion, do not properly reflect whether the student has absorbed the material. Given Florida's ridiculous reliance on the FCAT (to the point of entire courses being tailored to that test), students have *already* taken an exam in all classes.
It worked for us! Our final exam score was factored into our final grade. Lax homework and testing policies result in lazy college students and unprepared workers.
Knowing that exams are a possibility makes the student strive to do his/her best. I do not know if 5 is the "magic number" but attendance should count.
Many students work harder to get the A score in order to exempt the final exam. I know of students who have been ill or had other problems that made them miss school, but they kept up with the work, so they should not be penalized.
most importantly this needs to be uniform across the county
My child is a good student and does not miss any days unless he is truly ill. He consistently keeps his grades up and knows that one of the rewards may be exemption from final exams.
My son was told many times to stay home by teachers at SHS-Good Friday, FCAT for other grades, exam review days--and if he came to school to bring a book to read!!!
My son works harder knowing that he can be exempt from exams. The required 5 or less absences makes the students push themselves to not be absent as often as they would with no guidelines.
Not all kids fair well of these exams. I think they carry too much weight.
Not every student is a good test-taker and final exams should not have the grade weight that they do. The grade should be determined by the student's assignments and tests throughout the semester and not by a "one-time" test at the end of the semester.

## FINAL EXAM POLICY SURVEY 2010 - RESULTS

<p>On question 5 or 6, I would more likely say "yes" if you had 10 or more absences in a class, but not between 5-10. Many kids have monthly dental, or orthodontic appts. Are these absences suppose to be excused or not?</p>
<p>Only the students with the highest( A ) grades should be exempt from finals.Excused absences should not affect decisions as long as the grades remain acceptable.</p>
<p>Please allow a min. of 5 absences in a semester. Last year kids went to school sick w/ the flu before the 2 day absences were lifted. We personally knew a lot of these kids. Also, do NOT make having to pass Alg. 2 mandatory to graduate. Do you know how many kids struggle in Alg 1 &amp; Geometry. How many of you on the school board work with these levels of math in you everyday life?? Do NOT put pressure on kids as young as 3rd grade mandatory to pass FCAT in order to grad. to another grade. I witness a boy throwing up in the trash can do to nerves the morning of the FCAT. I saw a girl crying the morning of the test. These kids are only 7 &amp; 8 years old. Teachers need to make more student/final test decision &amp; the state &amp; politics should back up the teachers. After all, who see these students everyday! Too many political people are making school decision &amp; it needs to be our teachers decisions. Who know these students the best?</p>
<p>Q. 2 in unclear. I think they should be required at least 1 semester exam per year. ie only able to exempt one semester for a year long course.</p>
<p>questions 4,5 &amp;6 should include other factors. If you have A or B in class you shouldn't be penalized for being sick or other personal reasons. It gives incentive for students to work hard to exempt.</p>
<p>Questions 5 &amp; 6 only if the absences are unexcused. If there is a Dr.'s note for a serious illness and the grade is still an A or B then they should be exempt. It is a great motivator.</p>
<p>Questions 5 &amp; 6, if a student is ill and must be out of school for more than 5 days, with proper medical proof, or if there are other circumstances, but returns and completes assignments and is able to demonstrate mastery of the subject, then they should not be required to take final exams.</p>
<p>Re: Question 6, parents may use one of the student's not "so viable" classes to miss for medical appointments so the student isn't missing important learning in the other classes. Student should not be penalized for one class. Student's do need to be held accountable for their absences and grades.</p>
<p>regarding 6 &amp; 7: if a student has a verifiable medical condition and has been performing well, then every opportunity to help the student achieve success should be made</p>
<p>School attendance is important, but if a student has an "A" in the class he/she should not be required to take the final exam. That's been the policy and I don't think you should change it.</p>
<p>Seems as if it is a moot point since the State is moving towards requiring end of course exams.</p>
<p>Skipping or other rule violations should require them to take and pass a final exam in all courses. Students should be rewarded for following rules and working hard for their grades.</p>
<p>Some exams are more relevant than others, however I do not see the benefit of having to take all exams. Students should be rewarded for their strong grades and good attendance. I think 7 excused absences would be fair.</p>
<p>Students &amp; teachers spend too much time preparing for the FCAT, which in my opinion, is worthless. More time should be spent on true academics and learning.</p>

## FINAL EXAM POLICY SURVEY 2010 - RESULTS

Students must attend school to learn! I am a parent and a teacher and can tell you that TOO many parents allow students to stay home without being ill, having a court appearance or family emergency. (The "OLD" pinellas co. policy for attendance.) The only way to get students to attend is to dangle the "B or better average" plus good attendance to then exempt SOME exams....not ALL!!

Students should be exempt if they have a "B" or above in each grading period. But, if they have 5 or more absences in that course then they should take that exam.

Students should have learned test taking strategies prior to attending high school. Students should be tested adequately throughout the year to ensure that learning and knowledge of the course material has taken place prior to the semester end.

students should not be penalized for being sick or extra curricular activities--being a well rounded student is important and a part of education. You would also force ill students to return to school early or stay at school causing others to get sick.

Students with good grades should be rewarded by being allowed to exempt their exams. If a student has good grades and misses some days of school this should NOT be a factor in exam taking.

Teachers need to do a better job preparing students for exams and teaching study skills since this is new for many freshman.

the ability to exempt out of exams should still be maintained in some form. However, keeping students and teachers engaged and teaching for as long as possible is desirable.

The American Flag should be displayed in all school auditoriums.

The constant changes to your exam policy has caused unknown havoc for students. You should not be able to change the process after school has begun. My student took harder classes knowing with hard work throughout the year he could keep his final grade to an A or B and avoid taking the final exam. But, because of your flu policy, one C in one grading period forced him to take a final exam which he got a D on. The result was his first C ever in any grading period his whole life. The teachers do not do a good job preparing students for an exam as a whole. For Chemistry they were told to study all the chapters covered. Well, good thing she narrowed it on down a bit. My biggest pet peeve in this county is that the teachers use their own personal test from their own personal notes (that in one case had an original date of 1978 on it-the year was 2006) what good did studying the book do?? none. The book which hasn't even been cracked in most cases. How much money is wasted by the county purchasing textbooks that sit there and collect dust because the teacher doesn't want to have to change their prepackaged class material and tests. It is a crime. I would like to see the school board mandate the use of text books and require that all material tested in the class come from material in that book. Not material from 10 years ago lessons plans. It is plain lazy. How is a child supposed to find information he doesn't comprehend in the class when the teacher is teaching information and terminology which aren't in the currently issued textbook? And you wonder why students are struggling. Smart kids will always do well. Students who need additional material to review are toast. Since the teacher is reusing her tests year after year. She collects them so other students won't pass them around. The result of this is that parents never get to see what their children missed on a test and there is not the opportunity to review how pertinent the information on the test is. But, back to original point. It makes life easier for the teacher and that seems to be all the school board is concerned with. These students will be out of each school every 4 years. These teachers will be there 30 years teaching the same ditto sheet. Is that Education??

## FINAL EXAM POLICY SURVEY 2010 - RESULTS

There are sometimes extenuating circumstances for 5 or more absences, in which case, it should be reviewed. But I feel letting students exempt final exams is a privilege they have earned. If they are carrying a good grade and have 5 or less absences, they should be able to exempt. The good students should be rewarded for their good work. They are sometimes taken for granted, due to the overwhelming attention given to the problem students.

There is a problem with students who don't already want to be in school - not with the students who show up everyday and miss because they are legitimately sick or go to the dentist or dr. The exam policy is so that teachers can feel superior in giving an exam that brings the student's grade down - it has no real benefit. It's a joke.

There should be an exclusionary clause for serious illness.

Unless in cases of lengthy illness or death in the family, there is no excuse to miss 5 days in a semester or 10 days a year!

unless medical documentation can be provided that the student had a serious illness requiring them to be out for an extended time, e.g. swine flu, surgery, etc.

We need to bring back the absent policy.

What is the correct answer for #3, the choices are written as a test would be, not a survey.. I believe all students should have to take the exams to show that they have learned the curriculum taught in the course

When I attended Pinellas County Schools, each student was allowed a certain number (up to 10) of absences per semester based on your grade. I think it should be returned to that type of exam exemption.

Your survey questions are very poorly designed. For example, for number 3, I would say that final exams are of little benefit to some students. For example, for a student who already possesses strong test taking skills and has already mastered the curriculum content as demonstrated by strong grades throughout the grading term would benefit little from a final exam. Also, I would not correlate test taking skills with any form of success later in life. I consider the two to be independent and simply asking the question requires the person taking the survey to respond.....how about a none of the above option. Bottom line...leave the policy the way it is and hire a professional unbiased survey designer to create your surveys in the future.

FINAL EXAM POLICY SURVEY 2010 - RESULTS

<b>HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT</b>
absences do not determine how well a student knows the subject, the grades will show that
As a student I work hard for all by grades and when I see a fellow student just make an 80 in a class and they don't have to take the exam it makes me sick. They don't deserve that grade with 20 % they don't know. The final exam would give the the proper grade.
Attendance should not be required as long as a student keeps his or her grade an A or B. There are circumstances which require students to be absent for a extended period, and they are punished by taking exams.
Block schedule is a nice idea to think about please:)
Exams DO NOT in any way benifit high school students, they should only be used to see how good teachers teach their students, half the questions on the exams were never even taught in the classrooms.
Exempting the final exam should be a reward for doing well in a class
Final exam grades should not count as one fourth of a student's semester grade, especially if it brings the final grade down
Final exams do not benefit students because students already have to learn to prepare for everyday tests, learn important strategies from test. Final exams help poor students by allowing them to get C's D's and F's in each semester and then pass by taking the exam.
Final exams give students a reason to well throughout the semester. It gives them motivation to do well knowing they could exempt from a final exam.
final exams in high school work are imparitive. yes they should stay.
For students who are enrolled in AP classes, if students were required to take all of their exams could have up to 21 exams in a school year. That is very excessive and seniors especially should be exempt from exams.
High school students need to prepare for the final exam and if they take the semester exams, they will know what to expect for the final exam. Semester exams help students remember what they learned during the year and they can use it for a study guide. It's very helpful to students who are not good at taking tests because they will know how and what to prepare for. If a student has been absent, he/she knows to make it up. Students have learned that from elementary school and it should be applied to high school as well. If students do not have to take the final exam because of their absences, some students will purposefully skip classes. It is natural. Therefore, all students should required to take the final exam unless they have a severe medical condition or a serious tragedy or situation in which they are absent for over 10 days IN A ROW.
I believe it shouldn't matter how many times your absent, if you have a passing grade then you should be able to exempt.
I believe semester exams are important, but they should be limited to that semester if we are required to take both. However, being able to skip 1 semester exam per course encourages me to get above a B average so I can skip the second semester exams.
I don't mind taking final exams, but i do not think attendance should have anything to do with determining if you'll be taking the exam.
I feel as though if a students grade is above a C , they should not have to take the final exam , no matter how many times they exempt.
I feel as though if I know the material and can do well enough to get a passing grade in the class I should not have to take a final exam. I missed many days last year due to an injury and I kept up on my work only to have to take the final. I had an A in the course.



## FINAL EXAM POLICY SURVEY 2010 - RESULTS

<p>I liked last years policy at St.Pete High, if you get a C once in the semester you must take the exam, it helps kids keep their grades up, no one wants to take exams.</p>
<p>I think absences should not matter because if a student has at least a "B" average for that course they should be able to exempt the exam. I f a student has a family emergency that should not ruin their chances of exempting if they earned it. Exam exemptions should be based only on grades not on absences.</p>
<p>I think it should not matter if students get only As and Bs It should matter overall grade so if a student get a C an two As they can exempt</p>
<p>I think that as long as a student gets an A or B in a class they shouldn't have to take any exam for the class, since they did well during all the marking periods.</p>
<p>I think that final exams shouldn't be mandatory for grades C and up. Final exams also shouldn't be mandatory for 5 absenses a semester because sometimes family instances may come up or medical issues that causes the student to miss more than a week of school.</p>
<p>I think the attndance policy should stay the same as last year. If you have an A or B in that course, it shouldn't matter what your absences are. Limiting students to only 3 or 5 absences only punishes the good kids. The ones missing 20+ days aren't getting good enough grades to exempt anyways.</p>
<p>If a student gets sick twice, they can't exempt. It's not fair to the student, who still gets good grades, for something they can't control.</p>
<p>If absences are a factor it helps reduce the number of absences. Even colleges have exam exemption policies based on attendance and grades thus the county should keep an exemption policy</p>
<p>If students have good grades, I don't think attendance should be a factor in deciding whether a student should take exams.</p>
<p>If the student makes A's or B's and is absent all the time, then obviously they know the material they should not be forced to take the exam if they make good grades.</p>
<p>In past experiance will the absence policy I have judged it to be unfair. Many students such as myself are required by religion to take set days of for religous study. These days have always counted against us.</p>
<p>No More Final Exams</p>
<p>no more final exams!</p>
<p>The ability to exempt final exams is beneficial to high school students because it motivates them to do well in their courses and attend school, among numerous other things.</p>
<p>The policy should be reasonable. If a kid gets all A's but misses a few days they shouldn't be penalized. And nobody should have to take an exam for electives such as pe classes.</p>
<p>unexcused absences should only be counted and they should be only allowed to exempt the 2nd semester final but the mid term or 1st semester final should be mandatory so that students get the study habits but also get a reward for good grades</p>
<p>You should only take a final exam if you havent been there for most of the year. Or to recap your memory and not for a grade.</p>

FINAL EXAM POLICY SURVEY 2010 - RESULTS

<b>HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER</b>
3 tardies should equal 1 absence. Students should have an A/B in each of the 6 weeks and should be limited to no more then 4 absences per semester. If we do not make students accountable for absences they will fail the end of course exams that will replace the FCAT. If a student walks into class 20 minutes late, that student should be counted absent.
A course has tests over the semester, how does an exam help testing skills "more?" Exams should be a rule/ part of education with options to exempt, but options that help the teacher keep control of the class, while maintaining high standards. Referrals should be a part of the option also. "Time in class" is important. Anything that takes away from that should prevent exemption.
A final exam is measuring what a student has "learned" throughout the semester/year. If they have truly "learned" the material, it will be evident on the exam. All students should take the exam to determine if they have "learned" the material.
A stricter attendance and exam policy is essential. The superintendent and school board need to put some teeth into moving students forward. Just because parents complain does not mean that they are right.
A student should only exempt exam if they have an "A" average (i.e. AAA or AAB for three 6 weeks) B averages are too easy to obtain and do not show mastery of subject)
a student should be required to pass a final exam in order to receive credit if the student exceeded five or more absences
A student with 5 or more absences (or even 10 for a semester) should BE REQUIRED to pass the exam for that class, regardless of what their grade would be following the standard averaging of six-weeks/six-weeks/six-weeks/Final Exam average
A student with excessive absences should also have to PASS the final to earn credit for the course!
Absences is a key factor associated with exams, therefore students must be held accountable.
Absenteeism is Pinellas Co. Schools last year was a detriment to effective learning... ..you might as well not have teachers if you have a non-requirement for attendance in classes... .. also 5 absences is too many... 3 unexcused absences maximum in each class would be my recommendation...no effective teaching strategies can overcome a student population that chooses to take advantage of very liberal attendance policies...
Academic stamina has been on the wane as cheating has increased. We must bring back consistency in expectations.
All students should be learning until the end of the semester. With 30+ YEARS OF Experience I see many good students knowing they will exempt done with school many weeks prior to the end of the semester. Exams should not be a reward or a punishment but rather part of the learning experience. Thanks
All absences should be counted in the total whether they are excused or not. Students can call in for each other making the absence look justified. Only doctor/hospital notes should count as excused towards exemption.
All students - no matter attendance, course grade or behavior - should be required to take the final exams in all of their courses. Thank you for this opportunity to have input.
All students need to take final exams. I like the idea that seniors can exempt all exams second semester as a reward.

## FINAL EXAM POLICY SURVEY 2010 - RESULTS

All students should be required to take a final exam in every course to essay the knowledge retained by said students regardless of grade or attendance.
All students should be required to take an end of course exam to be counted as one quarter of the semester grade. You are not exempted in life for doing what you are supposed to do. We are not preparing our students for the real world by allowing them to exempt exams. Attendance, or lack thereof, needs to be addressed, but not in regard to a student's ability to exempt their exams.
All students should have to take ALL exams regardless of attendance. Also, all students who have more than 9 absences in any class per semester should automatically fail that class. As when they get jobs, missing this many days would result in termination.
All students should have to take and pass final exams in all courses.
All students should PASS a final in order to pass the course. Students will come to the exam and put their name on it, because they do not have to PASS the exam!! A huge difference between taking and having to Pass - Think about it.
all students should take all exams
As a high school teacher, the recent changes in the exam police (in regards to attendance) contributed to a much higher number of absences this year. If the previous attendance policy was put back into place, the students have a desire to come to class, with the hopes of exempting an exam. In this case, I would change my answer to #2
As a parent of a high school student AND a high school teacher, I would rather see a portfolio of student work that covers the year rather than an end-of-year exam. Too many of my students have exam "jitters," and do not do well on tests.
As teachers we are preparing students for the real world. In the "real world" attendance is not optional. In the real world, there are consequences for not showing up, and we need to make expectations in school more in line with what will be expected in life.
As we transition to hybrid classroom-and-online instruction, attendance should matter less in deciding exemptions. Until that time, however, attendance remains important.
Attendance and grades should not determine if students take final exams because all students should be required to take all final exams, whether it is a research paper or a test!
Attendance in class should be a prerequisite for being allowed to exempt a final exam.
Attendance is a huge factor in student success.
Attendance is a MUST in all classes. Students that keep an A or B average and have perfect attendance should be rewarded by excepting the midterm and final exams. Those students that are absent a lot cannot keep a B or better grade and should not be allow to exempt the midterm and or final exam.
Attendance is critical in student learning. An attendance policy for exams is effective in increasing student motivation. All students achieve higher when attendance is stressed as the most important part of classroom instruction.
Attendance is necessary for content mastery.
Attendance is the became a huge issue in HS last year. Kids are coming and going as they please and teachers are REQUIRED to give them make-up work. They need to be in class. An A or B student should be allowed to exempt with less than 5 abs. Out of control last year.

## FINAL EXAM POLICY SURVEY 2010 - RESULTS

Attendance is vital to success. In college, attendance policies are now very strict and final exams are almost always mandatory. Also, high absenteeism in the work place will result in being replaced. Let's establish good habits now and prepare our students for the future.
Attendance last year was extremely poor. Tying attendance to exams increases student accountability.
Attendance MUST be a factor.Last year's attendance was abysmal!
Attendance policies are necessary; we must prepare our students for college & future employment expectations.
attendance policy & exemption policy shouldn't be 1 in the same. We need a clearly defined attendance policy with consequence beyond not being able to exempt exams.
Attendance requirements for exams keep the kids who care attending school
Attendance should also be a factor as to if the student passes the course.
Attendance should be tied to grades. In colleges, grades are lowered if the student misses too many. In jobs, raises are tied to attendance. Only 2nd semester seniors should be allowed to exempt. Students shut down when they get their exam exemptions. Learning shuts down. Keep it strong and consistent. Too many changes has left us looking very weak.
Attendance should have no bearing; all students should take all final exams regardless of attendance.
Attendance was poor this year - because it wasn't required for exam exemptions. However, last year I liked that students couldn't exempt unless they had an A or B in every grading period, rather than the semester average. We need to do everything we can to encourage students to come to class! Although I think it would be nice if all students had to take finals (and it would benefit them), I think the incentive to do well and come to class that comes with the possible exemption is good incentive.
Can't understand why the Admin staff and School Board are not being leaders and setting the standards,last years attendance was a disaster.
Counting the final exam, the same as each marking period grade DOES NOT work. It should be weighted more. If we're moving towards end of course assessments, all students should be required to take, and pass, the final exam in order to receive course credit.
Documented excused absences should be considered if the student's grades merit exemptions. Exemptions are a true incentive for better attendance and grades.
Each class should be judged independently for absences. A distinction should be made between the weight of an unexcused absence versus an excused absence.
Either keep final exams and require them for ALL STUDENTS, no matter how good or bad attendance is, or GET RID OF THE EXAMS...it is unrealistic to excuse students from finals, no matter how "good" they are...that's not the way of the academic world they will face; please, please get rid of the exemption policy, PLEASE
ESE special diploma students who are not going on to college or formal secondary programs should be exempt from taking final exams as this just further frustrates them. Performance assessments and portfolios should indicate their skills and the concepts they have learned.
Every student should prepare for and complete a comprehensive semester exam for each course.
Every student should take all their exams. There should not be any exemptions. We are teaching our students that you get rewarded for good grades and poor attendance at the same time.

## FINAL EXAM POLICY SURVEY 2010 - RESULTS

Exam exemption for 4 or fewer absences is an excellent incentive for good attendance. When students attend, they learn.
exam exemption is a great incentive for students to attend class and maintain a A/B average. i support exam exemptions.
Exam exemption should be for Seniors only.
Exam exemptions are a terrible tradition PCS has set in place to the detriment of our students. Exams should be an expectation. There will always be tests in life. The smartest kid in law school still needs to take the bar. Requiring exams will better prepare our students. As educators, this should be an easy decision. No exam exemptions!
Exam exemptions are key to attendance. If students are mastering the required skills during the entire grading period with an A or B and attend class, it is a huge incentive to be in class and strive to do a good job.
exams required regardless of grades or attendance, taking finals should be part of education, not removed as a reward. who exempts test in professional world. does a lawyer skip the bar test bc they got a 4.0? etc.....
Exempting a final exam should be a reward for achieving a good grade as well as for good attendance.
Exemptions for students is a great motivator for the average student. It needs to be tied to attendance and course grades
Final exam exemptions are a great incentive for kids to be in school and to do well.
Final exam exemptions, if allowed at all, should be for seniors ONLY, 2nd semester and only if the grade in the class is a B or above and they have only 3 absences (including tardies).
Final exams are for the student and teacher to know if knowledge has occurred. They should be required for all students no matter what.
Final exams are used in all college/university courses. There are no exemptions. If a student can not pass a final exam it is clear that they have neither learned nor mastered the course material. Would you want a doctor performing surgery on you that was taught using exam exemptions?
Final exams as multiple choice focus on minutiae rather than concepts and as long as teachers don't have time to grade written portions of any exam, these exams are useless because they don't measure learning.
Final exams could benefit from being marked as pass or fail. The amount of time set aside for exams need to be shortened to 90 minutes.
Final exams give the teachers an overall view of the students' levels.
Final exams hold students and teachers accountable for important information. They prepare students for testing in college, junior college, or trade schools. Exams need to be taken seriously by parents, students, administrators, and teachers. However, having 2 weeks off for winter holidays then returning to take exams is no sound practice! Please, also consider returning to exams BEFORE winter break!
Final exams should be required for one semester in a yr long course. Attendance IS important for the student to learn; a bonus for good attendance in the form of exam exemptions will help keep students in school. No shows for a required exam, should fail the course, unless circumstances justify an "incomplete" to be completed during summer. B average in course should be required. for exemption. (I voted yes for #6, because students need to learn responsibility and attendance is required in any job.)
final exams should be required of all students with 10 or more absences and a grade of C or less. Though truthfully, failing students fail the final, and good students do well on the final.
Final exams should be required, period, regardless of absences or grades earned. In this age of accountability, let students have their share.

## FINAL EXAM POLICY SURVEY 2010 - RESULTS

Final exams should not be a punishment but a metric of learning
Finals are meant to show mastery of a subject. If a student is not showing mastery within the class due to attendance or poor grades, they need to pass the final.
Finals should be taken by all students. If they know the material, then there should not be a problem with taking and passing the final.
First - define absence. Is that number of times or number of days. Five days is too high, the number should be closer to 9 or 10-they are only teenagers. Need more options in #5 and #6. Student should test in any class where they have missed 6 or more times and/or 10 or more days. Results of this survey will be skewed based on interpretations.
Five absences would not influence the student's learning experience enough to the point where they should be expected to take and pass all of their final exams. There should, however, be a limit to the days a student can be absent, maybe 10.
For question 2, I wanted to clarify that I don't think ALL students should be required to take the exam, but MOST should. Currently, as long as the student has maintained an A or B average, they can exempt. I think this is too lenient. A student who has maintained an "A" average should be able to skip the exam (because they clearly know the material and how to study already), but no one else. It's not all that difficult to earn a B in class. Too many students are going into college having NO idea what an exam looks like or how to handle it. However, if I had to choose between everyone taking the exam or as the policy currently is, I would choose that everyone take the exam. In regard to question 6, if we only count absences for a particular class and its exam, it encourages skipping. In other words, if a student knows his/her grade in math is too low to exempt the exam, he might adapt the attitude of, "Well, I have to take the exam anyway, so who cares if I miss?" Students should maintain less than five absences across the board. Otherwise, we are encouraging them to value one course over another and to try to "cheat" the system. If we want students to value education, then we need to take it more seriously. Encouraging the skipping of exams is detrimental; it sets the wrong tone for college-bound students (and most students are now college-bound). Really, the students who need the exam the most are the B average students because they are likely going to college, but if they are not earning an A, clearly need more preparation.
Get rid of exam exemptions.
Give the students a reward for attendance in all classes. Don't allow a student to miss "x" amount of days in one class and still be able to exempt in another.
Having a grade and attendance requirement for exemption helps some students stay engaged. Having a grading system based on percentages will help more of them stay engaged

## FINAL EXAM POLICY SURVEY 2010 - RESULTS

Having students take all final exams will help students stay more attentive to their course work for the entire year. We are also supposed to be preparing these students for the future, by allowing them to exempt exams we are only doing the students a dis-service by not preparing them how to take exams and be responsible for knowledge learned in the classroom. Exam exemptions allowing seniors to exempt both semesters only adds to the "senioritis." I think exam exemption is completely unnecessary, if the students have an A or B in the course then taking the exam should not be an issue. We as teachers are also supposed to ensure MASTERY in our courses, ensuring mastery and preparing students for post secondary work can partially be accomplished through all students taking all course exams. Oh, and I forgot to mention how distracting exam exemptions are in the classroom for the final two weeks of class when teachers waste countless minutes looking up student information to see if they qualify for exemptions meanwhile having many students arguing their grades to be allowed to exempt. PLEASE HOLD THE STUDENTS ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR COURSE WORK AND HELP PREPARE THEM FOR THEIR FUTURE AND END EXEMPTIONS!!!!

High School Students should be required to take all final exams regardless of their attendance record or course grades. Many students manage to earn excellent grades only by cheating their way up or by having work done by peers or copying from others. And they get to exempt exams which makes it wrong and unfair to other students who are honest and work hard for their grades. If a student is a good student and does the work on a regular basis, he/she should be able to pass the exams anyway....

Highest student achievement can only be reached when a student comes to class! Rigor and relevance goes hand in hand with classroom attendance by both teacher and student!

I am a 33 year teacher. Last year with no attendance policy was by far the worst high school attendance I have seen! Not even close.. Please put back attendance policy. Swine flu scare is over which is where the change of policy came from.

I am a high school teacher. We must go back to an attendance policy concerning final exam exemptions. Attendance last year was much lower than the previous one. I teach in a magnet I can only guess what it was like in the traditional programs.

I am in total agreement with the proposed changes to the attendance policy as it relates to exam exemptions. I also think that there should be some type of reward/incentive (not necessarily an exam exemption) maybe additional % points added to their grade for the marking period, for those students who do not fall into the A/B for all marking periods provided these students continue to have excellent attendance. I do not want to see a student "give up" on attendance simply because they earn a C for a grading period, which I know will happen.

I believe all HS students should be required to take final exams. If we MUST have an exemption policy in place, then I definitely think that students with more than five absences in a course must take the exam.

I believe in end of course exams. However, believe that the errors on behalf of the District leaders for certain departments need to be addressed!!!! Maybe the District needs to look to the classroom teachers who are in the curriculum to create a pool of questions for the exams. Place them on-line and out of that pool, when the student hits 'begin' they get 100 questions of the 300, hence no two tests are alike!!! Like Real Colleges do today!

I believe only students with an "A" should be allowed to exempt the exams.

I can't believe you are asking these questions. Research the "best" district in Florida and copy it if nothing else. Let's get going, these type of surveys should be embarrassing to you.

## FINAL EXAM POLICY SURVEY 2010 - RESULTS

<p>I do not believe in exam exemptions. That said, if there is an exemption policy attendance and grades should be a factor.</p>
<p>I do not like the exam exemption policy. Students have to take many tests throughout their career and allowing to exempt an exam lets them miss out on valuable high-stakes testing practice.</p>
<p>I don't like 5 and 6 because the big problem isn't excused absences but UNexcused absences. If you changed this question you would see different answers with teachers.</p>
<p>I feel exemptions should be offered to those who have proven they have a complete understanding of the subject. A's exempt, B's and below may have performed well but did not prove they understand well enough to exempt a Final comprehensive exam. A's most likely already have proven good test-taking and preparation abilities.</p>
<p>I feel students should take all their exams, but I do feel that attendance has to figure in because some students can get notes from friends and pass without going to class. When a student has more than 10 absences in a semester, he or she should be placed in virtual, on line, school. If the student doesn't want to attend, stay at home and go to school.</p>
<p>I feel that a student who has more than 5 absences in a semester must take and PASS the final exam in order to earn credit for the course. This will help with the attendance issues we see.</p>
<p>I feel that Exams should be required for all students who enter a course. I also feel that the average of a students 4 grades should be contingent on whether they are passing the course. for instance a student should not be allowed to pass a class with an AFFF or FFFA,</p>
<p>I feel that high school exams should be more like college exams. If a student has an A/B average he/she should be able to exempt the exam due to mastering the subject matter in a particular class. Attendance needs to be factored into the equation as well. Final exam exemptions should be based on grades/mastery and attendance. Let's prepare students for college and the real world.</p>
<p>I feel that students must have an A as there semester grade or they have to take there exam. Anything less means they have more to learn.</p>
<p>I feel the district should just get rid of exemptions across the board. We as a state are moving to end-of-course exams as part of school accountability and our students need to get use to that format. The sooner the better.</p>
<p>I had a hard time answering a few of these questions with yes or no. First, I think exemptions should only be considered for seniors during their second semester if they have an A or B in the course and less than 10 absences. All other students should be required to show their learning over the year in a final. What are they there for anyway??? Students should be given the opportunity and be expected to show they know and understand the course (not only one or two specific concepts on a test) on a final exam.</p>
<p>I have been teaching for 13 years in Pinellas county. I have taught at Boca Ciega, Palm Harbor, Clearwater . Lakewood and Countryside High Schools. No matter where I have taught, final exams have been the biggest waist of time I have ever seen. Students that make a " C" or below usually never pass the final. Students rarely study for any tests. Most students do not even know how there grades are calculated. Each teacher has there on methods for determining grades. Why doesn't the school board start tracking what students make on their finals. The information is there. Make sure teacher do not curve the results.</p>
<p>I have students that come the first six weeks of the semester, get a C, and never show up again. What are they learning other than slipping by?</p>



## FINAL EXAM POLICY SURVEY 2010 - RESULTS

<p>I have taught for 40 years and this past year it was obvious from the day of the "Swine Flu" exception that kids were not going to come to school at the rate necessary for maximum learning to take place. Can't teach them if they are not there. When we ask accountability from teachers for kids who attend 1 or 2 days a week, we are asking an impossible task.</p>
<p>I have watched my AP scores get cut in half. Prior to the test I approached administration and the school board about the absences and no one seemed to care</p>
<p>I liked the old policy with 9 or less days &amp; maintain a 'B' average. I had very little problems with attendance and it gave the student with an A &amp; a C the motivation to work hard to be eligible to exempt.</p>
<p>I saw a significant decrease in the attendance of my juniors and seniors due to the superintendent's "knee-jerk" reaction in changing the attendance policy last year. A more prudent approach would have been to require a doctor's note excusing legitimate absences for the FEW students who were absent due to the swine flu. And please get rid of the "excused" and "unexcused" language. Parents will call in with an "excused" absence for any reason. All 5 absences should be unexcused with the exception of a doctor's note for something serious. We cannot teach the kids if they are not in class.</p>
<p>I think everyone should take their final exams no matter what! What are we teaching these kids?</p>
<p>I think students should only be exempt if they have an A in the class.</p>
<p>I think that students who are required to take the exam should be required to pass it to receive credit for the course. Students who have 3 C's know that they can have a bunch of absences and get a 0 on the exam, and will still have a C in the class.</p>
<p>I think that we should go to a 4 term school year with each term passed earning a .25 credit.</p>
<p>I think the 10 day absence limit was more realistic and understanding than the 5 day.</p>
<p>I think the number of absences should be higher than 5 to require exams--on the 10th absence, an exam should be required for that class only.</p>
<p>I think the policy of having at least a B average in a course is valid. It does make the student do as best as he or she can during the nine weeks so he or she can exempt. As a teacher, the policy is a good one in my opinion.</p>
<p>I would like to see that students who miss more than a certain amount of days MUST pass the exam in order to get the credit to demonstrate that they learned what was required. Otherwise, students who have C's or lower have no incentive to go to school. I can't tell you how many students I had who had 2 D's and an F and blew off the exam because, according to county policy, they knew they would pass. So they racked up absences in that third marking period and never learned that material. I HATE THAT!</p>
<p>Ideally I think all students should be taking exams all the time. Aren't we interested in the fact that we would like them to retain what they learn? However being a teacher for 35 years, I cannot stress the importance of attending my class to be successful. The attendance policy with the exam exception status DID get kids to attend school. As an AP teacher, I believe AP students MUST take the first semester exam- no choice. The exemption policy tied with attendance IS a great way of getting the average kids to class on time .</p>
<p>If a student has an A/B each six weeks they should be able to exempt the exam. Absences must be a factor in exam exemptions. Exam exemptions should be a privilege that the student earns.</p>

## FINAL EXAM POLICY SURVEY 2010 - RESULTS

<p>If a student has earned an A or B in a course and has had no more than 4 excused absences, then they should be rewarded by being able to exempt one of the two semester exams.</p>
<p>If a student is not in class, he/she will miss important material. A young adult must learn to SHOW UP and meet his/her responsibilities. Thus, coming to school is a template for the workplace. Exam policies linked to attendance encourage kids to come to school!</p>
<p>if a student no shows for an exam it should fail them for the course.</p>
<p>If a student with 5 or more absences in one class is obliged to take all final exams it might have a demoralizing effect and result in a "What's the use?" attitude.</p>
<p>If my students make good grades (A's or B's) then it shouldnt be mandatory for them to take the final, becasue if they have good grades they already know the material and they are wasting their time coming in and taking a exam that they will get a good grade on.</p>
<p>If our desire is to prepare our students for college, then we need to require all high school students to take all of their finals. Some college courses may only have a couple of tests and a final exam.</p>
<p>If the school and/or the teachers are going to held accountable in ANY way for the results on final exams, then the exams should be the same state-wide, if not at least county-wide; and ALL students should have to pass the exam to pass the course. Students must have a personal stake in passing the exam; currently they do not as there are few consequences. A student can get one C and then fail the rest of the semester and still pass the course.</p>
<p>If the student can make the a or b in the course, then they should be able to be exempt from exams.</p>
<p>If the student has excused absences and their grades are above average then I feel the student does not have to take the final exam. I have found that students do not really study or use their time wisely to prepare for final exams even when they know it is 1/4 of their grade.</p>
<p>If we do not have an attendance policy in Pinellas County students take advantage of this and they do not come to school. Students are pretty savvy, all they have to do is receive 1 C and 3 F's and they pass the course. Is this the type of education that Pinellas County Schools is trying to achieve?</p>
<p>If we value education, and are striving to prepare our students for the "real world", then all students should take all final exams. Colleges do not allow exemptions, AP classes do not allow exemptions - why should HS? By allowing HS students to exempt - we invite them to "check out" for the last grading period after they have minimally qualified to exempt an exam. As a HS teacher, I've never understood the PCS mixed message of highest student achievement and rigor coexisting with exempting exams. Sure, it's easier for me as a teacher - but I don't believe it is best for students. IF students are allowed to exempt - then absences and grades should play a roll.</p>
<p>If you don't have the exam policy for all day, the students will still be able to skip, come in late, or leave early for the classes that they don't want to go to. If the attendance is tied into ALL of the classes, the student will try harder to attend all classes so they can exempt at least some of their classes.</p>
<p>In an ideal world, connecting absence policies to final exams might seem nonsensical. In a high school, however, we NEED the incentive to keep the kids coming to class. The students currently receive NO PUNISHMENT for skipping class. Dealing with make-up work is not beneficial to the absent students, the teacher, or others students whose class time it interrupts. The "no limits" (swine flu) approach to absences DID NOT WORK.</p>

## FINAL EXAM POLICY SURVEY 2010 - RESULTS

<p>In my high school (in a different county) exam exemptions were a privilege earned only by seniors (who could drive themselves on and off campus for those exemptions) who had As and no unexcused absences.</p>
<p>Irregardless attendance or grades, I firmly believe all students should be accountable for taking their final exam for both semesters. And it should count as a fourth of their grade toward their final grade. A second semester senior would be the exception if their grades warrant to exempt.</p>
<p>It is imperative that attendance be part of the exam policy. This school year's data is proof that we need to get back on track.</p>
<p>It is time to rethink exams. Do we need them?</p>
<p>It is very important to have an attendance policy to ensure the success of all students. If students are not in class they can't learn. Through my teaching experience a students attendance directly correlates with their success in school.</p>
<p>It sounds like the state is working on end of course exams in a couple of years. Why not prepare now?</p>
<p>Kids cannot have unlimited absences. In 25 years, this was my worst year for attendance, grades, and kids dropping out. The attendance policy must have some "teeth". 5 or more in any course, they should have to take all the finals. If a student has 4 or less and 3.0 GPA let THEM exempt.</p>
<p>Last year, attendance was a nightmare--even with the "good kids." I have a class Webite that enables students to always be aware of what they missed--and they still, on average, did not make up there assignments on time, or where too overwhelmed because they had soo much to make up from so many absences. It was rediculous! I saw a significant decline in students grades because of the exam policy. I hope that this will change this year. Us teachers are always held "accountable" for student learning. Well, the students need to be held accountable to be in school--and their parents need to be accountable to make them go.</p>
<p>Last year, when attendance was not linked to the semester exam policy, many students did not care about their attendance and tended to skip classes more frequently</p>
<p>Last year's attendance policy really hurt student performance.</p>
<p>Last year's change in attendance policy was absolutely a disaster. I had students absent from honors classes over 20 days in one grading period, which is well over half the grading period. Most students elected to take Wed. off (short day for them), and Fridays. There were at least 4 "Senior Cut Days." In addition, you add the days juniors and seniors are "encouraged" to take off during the FCAT exams. Why should they come to sit in a gym, and now they didn't have to even have an excuse. Attendance was one of the worst problems this past year, all due to the H1N1 attendance policy, only to follow with the excuse to take off for Obama's speech. Forget 1st period attendance, because students waltz in at anytime, often 10 minutes before the next bell - with an excused tardy! The students have figured out how to get around our lame attendance policies, and only make teaching/learning almost impossible. Time taken by teachers to arrange needed lesson reviews (since half your class was not present) and make-up tests, etc. was extremely time demanding on teachers and greatly impeding student learning. The attendance issue was my most frustrating issue as a teacher, since we had to basically spend more time to accomplish less. You can't hold teachers accountable for test scores when the students don't show up! Let me repeat. . .you can't hold teachers responsible when students don't show up to class! Please make the changes as stated in the paper - and please stick to them!!!! Make students and parents more accountable.</p>
<p>Low level kids who maintain A's and B's will become defeated when they cannot pass final exams. You will start to see their grades drop as well. Exemptions based on grades and attendance should apply to both semesters even in year-long classes.</p>
<p>More oversight is needed to ensure that exams truly assess understanding and aren't just a bunch of multiple choice questions.</p>

## FINAL EXAM POLICY SURVEY 2010 - RESULTS

more than 9 days absent instead of 5 or more days to exempt would be better or tie grades and days absent together.
Most students try to exempt 2nd semester exams. By this time most seniors have been accepted to colleges, which just look at the final grade. Most of my students that have an A/B in the course also received A/B on exams. However, absences need to be part of exemption. This past year I had seniors that had six weeks grades of A/A and for the third six weeks did not attend a large % of days because they knew they could still get a B and exempt. I had an AP/Honors student that myself and another teacher were calling every morning to get her to school, she told us that "if the school does care if I am there and I have the grades, why should I come." The bad part was the alot of my freshman/sophomores felt the same way. These were GOOD students but nothing we seemed to say mattered. "The final grade is what is looked at by colleges and I can keep my grades up and still miss school." It did not seem to matter that they got behind in their work and that the grades dropped. If it got to the point that the grades dropped so much that they may not exempt they then started not missing any days. When calling home about students grades being low because of missing work because of absences, parents almost always asked if there was a chance that the attendance policy would go back to the way it was before this past year. That the attendance policy for this past year seemed to say that we did not care if the students attended.
My answers to 4-6 might be read as contradictory; I believe that ALL students should take ALL exams, no matter their attendance.
My concern would be for the students who miss more than 5 days for legitimate reasons. Require them to take exams but please do not mandate that they pass the exam to pass the course.
My second semester attendance was abysmal, and much of that was due to attendance not being tied to exemptions. Hopefully, attendance will improve with tying exemptions to attendance.
Not having an attendance policy this past year was disasterous! I believe that high school students need to take final exams to prepare for college. However, perhaps to reward good attendance there could still be an exception for the final exam used as a senior priviledge.
Not having to take a high school exam has given students to option of doing the basics in classes because they know they will pass if they make even a C in a class they can pass with a D. This pulls a student's GPA down and effects the overall GPA not allowing them to graduate. For many students not all this gives them an excuse not to show up at class and they miss value work that could benefit them.
Not only should the student who has five or more absences be REQUIRED to take the exam, they also should be REQUIRED to pass the exam to pass the class. If the students know that attendance does not count to exempt the exam, the students do not come to class, which was the case this past school year. The students are not learning the material that they need to so that they can be successful in their future classes.
Our academic standards are currently appallingly low, and it seems that each year we lower them more.
Pinellas Co. Schools must have an effective attendance policy. The status quo is a joke!
Pinellas exam exemption policy teaches students how to play the system. All students should take all exams. No exemptions for anyone.
Please bring back the attendance policy back this year:)
Q5 needs qualification: i.e. what if absence is due to serious illness. I also think 5 absences is too low a number.
Question #2 was confusing. Exams should be given in all classes but students should have the opportunity to earn an exam exemption through good grades and attendance
Question 3 should have a simple choice about exams as an important measure of what was learned! Question 4 is misleading because it assumes exemptions are in place. PLEASE ASK CLEAR QUESTIONS!

## FINAL EXAM POLICY SURVEY 2010 - RESULTS

question 5 is important to encourage attendance in the first period class to set the tone for the semester. Period 1 is the class missed the most .
Rarely do final exams increase a students final grade, final exams usually serve to discipline a student for not attending class or for low performance.
Re: #3 students often don't study for exams or expect "reviews" to tell what is on final. Absentee pol. keep them in class and grd req. keep them engaged. Use both.
Requiring students with more than 5 absences in ANY class to take all exams would greatly reduce the rate of skipping classes sporadically through the day. Exam exemptions are fine and are a good incentive to do well and come to school, but there must be tighter parameters than in the current policy.
Semester finals should not be required in basic electives like art, music, and shop.
Seniors should be required to take one of the final exams in a year long course their Senior year. This is a great preparation for college.
Some of the question are vague or too limiting to reflect my philosophy of final exams. Attendance: I prefer the 10 day rule, as in the past. Students with high grades should be exempt. The exam policy that was used most of the last few years worked pretty well. Just keep it. Not last year's, though.
Some questions seem redundant to me. I wish that there were no exam exemptions. However, if there are then the privilege should be extended to those students that have good grades and infrequent absences by course.
Still not enough. Kids that aren't A or B students won't care about more than 5 absences and still not show up. They will get a C in one grading period and not try in the others.
student absences are a real problem. If they have more than 5 days out, they should be required to take and pass an exam to show they know the material.
Student attendance is a key factor in their success. Students should be held to an attendance policy to exempt exams.
Student attitude towards attendance this year was beyond lackadaisical. They must be held accountable.
Students at the high school level must be held accountable for their education. Being present is a critical part of success.
Students believe that attendance gives them the right to excuse exams. Motivation needs to be linked to learning, not presence in a classroom.
Students need to be accountable for their semester course work and their attendance; students should be required to take final exams including seniors.
Students need to know that attendance is required to get credit for a course. They should have a B or better average every six weeks. Many students do well the first 2- 6 weeks and then do as little as possible the last 6 weeks. You must work - not just show up. They should be made to do the online courses if they cannot be bothered to attend school. Not allowed back in class room unless they are required to attend. Withdraw them immediately if they don't attend. Child rise to the expectations you set. They should not be give a lot of opportunities to do what they should do to start with!!! We are training students that the can do as they please and they will get several chances to continue their poor behavior. Doing what is right should be a requirement.

## FINAL EXAM POLICY SURVEY 2010 - RESULTS

students should be required to take final exams in all classes and count 25% of their final grade. more than 2 absences in any 6 week grading period = F for that 6 weeks.
Students should be able to prove efficiency in any course for which they are given credit. "Memorize and Forget" is not learning. Would you want your airplane pilot to be unable to remember how to land the plane?
Students should have some type of exam since they are required to take them in the future in various types of settings. Some classes may not need exams, but that would have to be decided on a case by case basis.
Students should only be allowed to exempt a final exam if they have earned a provisional semester grade of an A & have less than 5 absences in a course. Only one exemption for year long classes & teachers can have a no exemption policy (esp in an AP course) as long as it is specified in their course syllabus.
Students with poor attendance should not receive credit for their course and taking exams for all should be required to prepare for the outside world. Also, when exams are required, the students stay on task till the last day of school instead of giving up one month prior. I see this happening especially if they are exempting exams (seniors get to exempt all exams second semester) and mentally are on their way to college. Many students let their attendance falter the last month and I'm talking about the cream of the crop students
Tardies should also be factored in as one of the criteria as in the past.
The ability to exempt a final exam is often an incentive to work during the semester.
The absences from #5 should include excused absences. Any extenuating circumstances could be reviewed by the Principal or AP.
The absences in a class should be a factor!! When that was changed for 2009-10 year, there was a dramatic increase in absences!!
The attendance policy has to be brought back to at least what it was prior to the change in 2009. We have to have kids in the classroom in order to teach. We can not teach what is not there. I firmly believe that attendance should be tied in to exam exemptions and other school related things that students have....like Prom, Homecoming Dance, field trips,etc. You would be surprised how motivated most students would be if they knew the social activities/ events were tied into attendance besides just exam exemptions.
The attendance policy MUST return this year. It was a disaster last year, attendance was down considerably and students knew all they had to do was make up the work in due time and they could still exempt.
The attendance policy we had before the H1N1 year encouraged students to attend school. I have noticed this past year that with no attendance policy for exams, students would take off many times just to go to the beach on sunny days, go shopping with friends, and even parents scheduled vacations and trips during class time. As a core education teacher, I know that students must have the real seat time in class to make the best grades.
The county needs to develop an attendance policy that can affect whether or not a student receives credit for a course in addition to this exam policy.
The Exam policy needs to be altered. Many students are not use to taking exams. Due to this many students may not succeeding in college, in which they will be required to take cumulative exams.
The final exam grade should equal 1/4 of the average grade and trend should count.

## FINAL EXAM POLICY SURVEY 2010 - RESULTS

<p>The final exam should not be weighted as heavily as an entire grading period. In courses that are hands-on application courses, the teacher should be free to assign a final project turned in by exam day instead of a final exam.</p>
<p>The lack of an attendance policy in the previous school year presented many challenges in regard to student performance. When students absences are not limited even the best students are more likely to be unnecessarily absent.</p>
<p>the last 6 wks last year, the kids quit--they stopped doing any work, showing up for school and they knew they could because they had a B first 6 wks and do nothing the rest of the time. PLEASE HELP OUR KIDS!!! EXAMS ARE NECESSARY--ATTENDANCE is NECESSARY!!!!</p>
<p>The letter grade in the course should also be taken into account. If the student has an A or B in the course they should be able to exempt.</p>
<p>The method used to determine a student's final grade by using points instead of percents is a joke, and students know the punchline. Most of them are wasting everyone's time, including their own, when they take an exam that is not going to change the outcome of their final grade. Most of my students choose to fail the exam because it doesn't matter. WASTE OF TIME AND IT MAKES US ADULTS LOOK RIDICULOUS.</p>
<p>The no attendance policy for 2009-2010 led to an overall drop in student grades and attitude.</p>
<p>The old nine absences with the tenth putting a student over for semester exams worked best. A and B students get an incentive, but no Cs should be figured into the average. Not showing up for the exam should fail the student in that course--not just an F averaged in as it was this year. The proposal goes from too lax (2009-10) to too tight. The five absences is asking for a huge headache. A number of circumstances arise. Go back to the tenth absence making a student ineligible. It's best for everyone concerned. Also I think any student who can earn an A or B average in a course should be exempt by semesters. (Not just the one semester or the other as it is now.) Keeping track of that is a headache as well.</p>
<p>The problem that I, as a high school teacher, sees is that the current policy is final exams negatively impacts students' attendance. Students with 30+ days absences can still pass the course! And, the not taking the final exam only impacts the student's grade 25%! What really needs to be addressed is the current attendance policy!</p>
<p>the real changes need to involve the attendance policy. If attendance is not attached or relative to the academics, then it becomes very hard to affect attendance. When the attendance policy changed a few years ago, many students saw no reason to attend if they made an A or B or even a C during one of the 6 weeks. If they passed any of the 6 weeks, many saw no reason to attend or worry about the exam. Please change the attendance policy. Attendance, in fact, is a much more effective lesson to teach them. This will help them in college or the work place.</p>
<p>The students, especially juniors and seniors, had higher absences that in previous years because it was not taken into account for semester exams. It also gives students practice for FCAT and other similar tests.</p>
<p>The students need to come to school in order to learn, if he or she attends school the exam shouldn't be a problem. Unfortunately many parents enable their children and do not feel it is necessary to have good attendance.</p>
<p>The survey does not separate unexcused from excused absences. I think this needs to be rethought</p>
<p>There are no exemptions in college, military, or the work place. And the attendance NEEDS to be a factor!!</p>
<p>There are so few incentives for high grades and good attendance. The exam policy can reenforce higher grades and better attendance.</p>
<p>There must be allowances for exceptions to the absent rule based on AP discretion and parental/doc input</p>

## FINAL EXAM POLICY SURVEY 2010 - RESULTS

<p>There must be consequences for students who do not attend classes. So much information can be missed and if they cannot pass a final exam how can a teacher show material mastery?-- teachers and schools are held accountable for covering course materials. Students should also be held accountable for learning material that has been part of class content.</p>
<p>There needs to be a consequence for the C or D student to attend. Perhaps tying attendance to eligibility to play a sport ex. after 5 unexcused absences they can no longer play in the games but could attend practices. Perhaps detention or Saturday school for poor attendance. These students need a stick/carrot regarding attendance even more than the A/B student.</p>
<p>There needs to be a strict attendance policy put into place. Last year was a nightmare because the students know there was no policy when it came to attendance.</p>
<p>There needs to be some type of attendance policy implemented in Pinellas County. Last year was a complete farce.</p>
<p>there should be no exemptions. All students should take all exams regardless of grades or attendance</p>
<p>There should be NO exemptions. The idea of end-of-course exams is a good way to help students stay focused all year. We need to help kids stay motivated.</p>
<p>This may be the only way to get high school students to start attending classes! When the attendance portion of exam exemptions was taken away there was a DRAMATIC increase in absences. This is an easy way to help fix the attendance problem.</p>
<p>This past year was a fiasco for students and attendance. At-risk students had little to work for and even the honors students were not concerned about taking days off.</p>
<p>This past year without an attendance policy was a disaster! One motivating factor for students to come to school is the ability to exempt their exam. Without this many students are skipping classes, or coming in extremely late and were still able to get the necessary A or B per 6 weeks that allowed them to exempt. Unfortunately this tardiness and absenteeism made a large disruption when students enter late, or when a teacher could not present a lesson because not enough students were in class (i.e. I had 2 students present in a class of 28 on the 4th designated senior skip day) VERY DIFFICULT TO WORK WITH!!!</p>
<p>This, along with strictly followed attendance with excused/unexcused policy, should get us all back on track!</p>
<p>To clarify my responses: I believe that all students should take all semester final exams regardless of grades or attendance.</p>
<p>Tying absences to exam exemption is a huge factor in reducing the number of absences.</p>
<p>Tying attendance to a final exam does not make sense to me. It does not show what final exams were supposed to show--the amount of knowledge retained/understood. What really can you expect for a grade if a student is absent?</p>
<p>Typically students who are not required to take the final become quite smug during exam review time and interfere with the review process</p>
<p>W/ EOC tests - exams needed in core courses. If Exempt - no lower than B any grading period w/attendance requirements also</p>
<p>w/o attendance connection the tail wags the dog. Grades/Attendance MUST be determining factor for taking final exams!</p>
<p>We may as well dispose of exemptions since they will be nonexistent in two years, anyway, according to the state's current plan.</p>



## FINAL EXAM POLICY SURVEY 2010 - RESULTS

<p>We must also decide on what to do about the attendance policy for students in middle school that do not take final exams. We must also remember students that would rather miss as many days as they would like and they just take the final. We also must fix the grading. It is wrong if you can make a C, F,F,F then pass with a D!!!!!!!</p>
<p>WE NEED A DISTRICT WIDE ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR ALL STUDENTS. FIVE OR MORE ABSENCES SHOULD RESULT IN FAILURE IRREGARDLESS OF GRADE. WE ARE NOT HELPING STUDENTS WITHOUT ONE.</p>
<p>We need an attendance policy to be part of the final exam policy. Attendance was very poor last year because students knew they could be absent without consequences.</p>
<p>we need to toughen up both the exam policy and the attend policy. why else are parents crying for more fund schools?</p>
<p>We use to have a policy that worked VERY well. An "A" average in a class the student could miss 4 days...a "B" 3 days...a "C" 2 days... This worked!!!!</p>
<p>When the adults set lower limits on this age group, they aim for the lower limit. If we have end of course exams, they need to be norm referenced and standardized, not county written. Reviews need to be given in a timely manner. Students need to become responsible for their learning at this age and teachers/parents are facilitators. This is not true presently. Students want the grade, not the knowledge (in general). Not all students will be college bound. We need to address the needs of the general population better.</p>
<p>While I believe that students MIGHT stay more engaged if they knew they had to take the final, I also believe that if their attendance has been good and they have maintained a high grade it is safe to assume that they will also do well on the test and should, therefore, be able to exempt.</p>
<p>With high stakes exams such as FCAT and EOC exams students need all the practice they can get to prepare them for the exams. Another item is that students cram for tests but do not retain what they learn. EWxams would force them to review which should improve their retention of information learned in a course.;</p>
<p>With respect to the attendance I would like it to be more than 5 for the minimum days missed because they days missed could be spread out and not back to back days. I think a student can recover from missing a day here and there but not back to back days.</p>
<p>Without an attendance policy last year, the student absences increased excessively, in many cases 30 to 60 days a semester.</p>
<p>Yes to the above if the absences are unexcused.</p>
<p>You have not address the eoc assessment. Is that going to replace the final exam? If so, everyone should take it.</p>

## Final Exam Policy Survey

Pinellas County Schools is asking for your help as we reexamine student final exam policies for our high school students. The Pinellas County School Board requested that we conduct a brief survey of **high school students, parents, and teachers** to seek opinions about key issues related to these policies. We hope you will take a few minutes to share your opinions by responding to the following questions. Your participation in this survey is optional and anonymous. The survey will be open until midnight on Sunday, August 8th.

This survey is ONLY intended for high school students, parents of high school students, and high school teachers.

If you are not one of the above, please do not take the survey.

**\* 1. I am a:**

- Parent or guardian of a Pinellas County public high school student
- High School Student
- High School Teacher
- None of the Above

**1. Should a high school student's course grade be a factor in deciding whether the student is required to take semester final exams?**

- Yes
- No

**2. Should a high school student be required to take semester final exams in all courses?**

- Yes
- No

**3. Please review the following statements regarding final semester exams for high school students. Please check all statements that reflect your opinion.**

**Final semester exams...**

- help students learn how to prepare for final exams in the future (end-of-course exams, post-secondary school exams, professional exams)
- help students learn important test taking strategies
- help students stay engaged in their coursework throughout the term because they know they must take final exams
- do not benefit any high school student
- do not benefit most high school students

## Final Exam Policy Survey

**4. Should a high school student's course attendance be a factor in deciding whether the student is required to take semester final exams?**

- Yes  
 No

**5. Should a high school student with five or more absences in a course be required to take a final exam in that course?**

- Yes  
 No

**6. Should a high school student with five or more absences in any course be required to take the final exams for all courses?**

- Yes  
 No

**7. Comments (limited to 150 characters):**

Thank you for completing this survey. Please click "Done" to finish.