



Alaska Association of Student Governments

Resolution #2

Finals Exemptions

Submitted by: Chugiak High School

Submitted: April 25, 2018

Be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments:

1. **Whereas**, students at Chugiak High School would be granted a total of three exemptions to their final exams held at the end of each semester;
2. **Whereas**, students will be required to have a minimum of ninety percent, excluding extra credit, in the class that they wish to exempt from, by the required deadline of three weeks before final exams are administered;
3. **Whereas**, students will have until three weeks before final exams to achieve the required grade;
4. **Whereas**, students must maintain the minimum required grade for the final three weeks of the semester;
5. **Whereas**, the grade for AP students will be the unweighted grade;
6. **Whereas**, teachers may opt to have their exempted students still take the final but have it not count towards their overall semester grade;
7. **Whereas**, additional classes taken outside of the regular school schedule (zero hour, seventh hour, etc.), may be exempted if the student meets the stated criteria;
8. **Whereas**, students do not get additional exemptions for taking additional classes;

9. **Whereas**, the student must attend ninety percent of their classes each semester to be eligible to exempt from the final in that class;
10. **Whereas**, absences, unexcused, count against the class;
11. **Whereas**, the absences accumulated pertain to each individual class;
12. **Whereas**, students wanting to exempt from any final exams may not miss any classes, unexcused, the final two weeks leading up to final exams;
13. **Whereas**, school sponsored activities including sports, clubs, etc., will not be included in the student's absences;
14. **Whereas**, appeals on absence decisions based on the extenuating circumstances of the student would be granted at the discretion of the administration;
15. **Whereas**, students will be notified on which finals they can exempt via a letter administered by their designated counselor;
16. **Whereas**, this letter will be sent to students by two weeks before the final;
17. **Whereas**, if the student does not maintain the criteria in the final three weeks of the semester, they will receive another letter to notify them they are no longer exempt from the specified finals;
18. **Whereas**, students may not be exempt from online class finals, as these are district wide;
19. **Whereas**, allowing students to only miss a certain amount of classes to qualify for final exam exemptions would increase the attendance rate at Chugiak High School;
20. **Whereas**, in a survey conducted by the Pinellas County School Board in Florida, sixty-one point eight percent of high school students, teachers, and parents thought students should not have to take a final in every class they are enrolled in;
21. **Whereas**, students at Grace Christian High School are allowed to to be exempt from some of their final exams;

22. **Whereas**, Destination 2020 aims for a ninety percent attendance rate within the Anchorage School District;
23. **Whereas**, this would help achieve the district's goal of ninety percent attendance by 2020;
24. **Whereas**, at Lake Worth High School in Florida, attendance went from seventy-eight percent to ninety point four percent after allowing finals exemptions;
25. **Whereas**, at Miramar High School in Florida, attendance went from eighty-seven percent to ninety-two percent after allowing finals exemptions;
26. **Whereas**, according to a survey conducted by Georgetown University, many students experience high stress during finals;
27. **Whereas**, one survey conducted by the National Institute of Mental Health found that thirty percent of teens reported feeling sad or depressed because of stress, thirty-one percent felt overwhelmed, thirty-six percent said that stress makes them tired and twenty-three percent said they've skipped meals because of it;
28. **Whereas**, finals contribute to this amount of stress;
29. **Whereas**, final exam exemptions would help decrease the stress load on students;
30. **Whereas**, finals exemptions would reward students for doing well academically in the class during the semester;

Therefore, be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports that students at Chugiak High School who meet the criteria stated above will be given the opportunity to exempt from three of their total final exams each semester.

Action Statement: this resolution, if passed by the General Assembly of AASG, will be sent to the principals of Chugiak High School.

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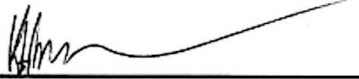
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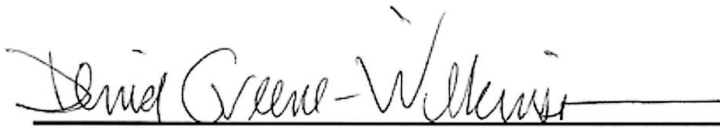
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**Passed, with noted opposition, by the Alaska Association of Student Governments Spring
2018 General Assembly.**



Vice President, Kyle Hasse



Executive Director, Denise Greene-Wilkinson