

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

I. RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION

1. A student shall not be required to enroll in either physical education or health courses if the student's parent or guardian files a written statement with the school principal that indicates that the course conflicts with the pupil's religious beliefs.
2. The written exemption for religious reasons must be filed with the principal annually, and each student must have a copy of all his/her high school exemptions and the current exemption on file with the student's counselor.
3. The student shall be excused from the physical education credit requirement for each year the student has the religious exemption appropriately on file, but shall be required to meet the total minimum credit count required for graduation.

II. MEDICAL EXEMPTION

1. All medical exemptions must be on file with the school nurse and a copy on file with the student's counselor.
2. If a student has a medical excuse for less than one (1) semester, he/she will report to study hall during the time of their excuse.
3. If a student has a medical excuse for an entire semester, he/she may enroll in another course.
4. Students who are not in physical education due to a medical excuse are also ineligible to participate in any athletics, cheerleading, and drill team or other activities per physician's discretion during the time of the medical excuse.
5. The student shall be excused from the physical education credit requirement for each complete medical exemption semester but shall be required to meet the total minimum credit count required for graduation. A student exempted for less than nine (9) weeks of a semester shall be awarded the physical education grade earned during the portion of physical education the student was enrolled and shall be awarded the semester credit if the grade is D or higher. Students exempted for more than nine (9) weeks shall need to re-enroll in physical education and earn the semester credit.

III. ACADEMIC EXEMPTION

1. The student must be taking a full academic load (9th – 12th grades).
2. The student is in an approved cooperative, work-study or other educational program authorized by the school which requires the student's absence from the school's premises during the school day (12th grade only).
3. The student must have prior permission from his/her counselor before making a request to the principal. Additionally, the student must complete the exemption

request, including parent/guardian approval and guidance counselor approval, two (2) weeks prior to the semester.

4. Students who use academic exemptions must maintain seven (7) academic courses, excluding physical education, at all times. If a student drops a course prior to the 10th day of the semester and does not replace that course with another academic course within those 10 days, the student shall return to physical education. If a student drops a course after the 10th day of the semester, the student shall fail the course and shall need to make up the semester of physical education.
5. The student shall be excused from the physical education credit requirement for each successful semester (completes seven (7) courses), but shall be required to meet the total minimum credit count required for graduation.

IV. ATHLETIC EXEMPTION

Only ATHLETIC activities recognized by the Iowa High School Athletic Association, the Iowa High School Girls Athletic Union, and/or athletic activities recognized by the Waterloo Community Schools may apply under this exemption.

1. Students in grades 9-11 may be exempt for only one (1) semester per academic year for an athletic exemption. Students in grade 12 may be exempt for both semesters for an athletic exemption.
2. The student and his/her parent must request the exemption in writing to the high school principal two (2) weeks prior to the semester of the student's sport. A copy of each exemption must be kept on file with the student's counselor.
3. If the student drops or quits a sport after the first 10 days of the semester, the coach will immediately notify the principal and guidance department. The student shall need to make up the physical education credit for that semester. If a student drops, quits, or is cut from a sport, prior to the conclusion of the first 10 days of the semester, the student shall immediately be placed back in physical education.
4. A student exempted because of athletics shall be excused from the physical education credit requirement by semester but shall be required to meet the total minimum credit count required for graduation. The student who exempts physical education must make up the credit count loss by enrolling in and passing equivalent credit count courses to meet the graduation minimum.
5. The semester athletic exemptions shall apply as follows: fall athletes – exempt first (1st) semester, winter/spring athletes – exempt second (2nd) semester, summer athletes – no physical exemptions.
6. Students who are exempted from physical education with an athletic exemption must meet all attendance requirements as prescribed by the Board of Education and the school.
7. Should the student violate the terms of the exemption, the principal may immediately rescind the student's athletic exemption.

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