

# Broward County Public Schools New Waiver Application



*Broward County Schools is the largest fully accredited school district in the United States*

School Improvement Waivers are designed to remove barriers to school improvement that have been found in state statute, school board policy, or collective bargaining contract (see School Board Policy #1403). Waivers must be based on sound educational research and evaluation, must be budget neutral to the district, must be supported by stakeholders in the local school community, and must be approved by 66.67% of the faculty. Waivers may be approved for up to five years by the School Board, but the faculty must approve the waiver each year. Waivers must be equitable for all students in a particular student group.

Please see the waivers standards operating procedural manual online ([http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/ospa/initiatives.asp?initiative\\_id=5](http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/ospa/initiatives.asp?initiative_id=5)) for support information to complete this application.

Waiver #	3
School Name:	Fort Lauderdale High
Board Policy/Contract Article:	6000.1
Board Approved:	TBA
Years Approved:	5 Years
Target Area:	Exam Exemption
Waiver Status:	New
Initial Year of Implementation:	2019
District's Strategic Alignment Plan:	Instruction/Teaching & Assessing for Learning
Accreditation Standard Alignment:	Teaching and Assessing for Learning

- Fort Lauderdale High** is requesting a waiver for **Exam Exemption** for a period of 5 years. **Fort Lauderdale High** will analyze the data and present them to SAC.
- This waiver proposal was presented, reviewed, and endorsed by all stakeholders of the local school community at meetings on:

Community Meeting 1:	10/09/2018
Community Meeting 2:	11/13/2018
Community Meeting 3:	12/11/2018

- The School Advisory Council voted on the **Exam Exemption** Waiver by 100% (minimum of 51%) on 12/11/2018.
- The Faculty voted on the implementation of **Exam Exemption** by 81% (minimum of 66 2/3%) on 1/07/2019, according to the voting guidelines in the Broward Teachers Union Contract, Article 15.
- Write the exact language of the school board policy or contract article that the proposed waiver will supersede.

Board Policy#:6000.1 Part B Section 6: Semester Examinations and Exam Exemptions a. Semester examinations for a course shall be scheduled and administered in accordance with the guidelines provided by the District. b. A student's attendance record may not be used in whole or in part to provide an exemption from any academic performance requirement (F.S. 1003.33(2)). c. A student may be exempt from the midterm and/or final exams in a high school course under the following criteria: 1) The student earns a grade of "B" or better in all marking periods of the respective high school course during the semester of the exemption. 2) The student may waive eligible midterms or final exams for up to one-half all high school or higher-level courses on the student's regular school day schedule, 3) AP/IB/AICE midterm exams cannot be exempted; however, the student may exempt the final exam. i. Teachers are encouraged to give an alternative assessment in lieu of a traditional final exam. 4) Dual enrollment midterm and final exams may not be exempted. 5) The statewide, standardized EOC assessments, required by statute, are not eligible for exemption; however, the student may exempt the midterm exam. 6) Midterm and/or final exams cannot be retroactively exempted once the student takes the exam.

6. State the waiver: change, delete, or add to the policy or contract so as to fulfill the requirements of the proposed waiver.

All students in grades 9-12 will take a midterm examination and final examination in all credit courses. Teachers may give an alternative assessment in lieu of a final or midterm.

7. State the rationale for the proposed waiver. How will the proposed waiver support school improvement? Give background information, history of barrier, etc.

FLHS recognizes the value of all students participating in the mid-term and final exam experiences. Approximately 52% of our entire student enrollment participates in the Pre-Law/Public Affairs and Cambridge AICE programs. As part of these Magnet programs, students enroll and successfully participate in both the Advancement Placement Courses and Exams and Pre-AICE and AICE Courses and Exams at a 64% success rate for AP (3 or higher on AP exams) and 75% success rate for Cambridge (A-E Score on Cambridge Exams). Based on the October 2018 PSAT/NMSQT score of 480 or above on verbal and 430 on math or above, 61% of 9th are at or above proficiency for reading and 36% of 9th are at or above proficiency for math, 51% of 10th are at or above or proficiency for reading and 41% at 10th are at or above proficiency for math, and 65% of 11th are at or above proficiency for reading and 38% are at or above proficiency for math. Fort Lauderdale HS believes that all students should take midterms and finals for the following reasons: 1. Exams are a crucial experience for the college bound students as these exams mirror cumulative college end-of-year exams, 2. Mid-terms and finals are critical for students in developing and maintaining testing stamina and retaining cumulative information, and 3. Mid-terms and final exams are the only administratively approved exams in regards to structure and format. 4. This waiver will support school improvement by giving students mid-term formative feedback/data from which to improve their achievement before end-of course assessment and before matriculating into the next level of courses within subject areas. Students clearly understand that they must master certain benchmarks of the Sunshine State Standards and/or Florida Standard Assessment in every course they take; mid-term exams help them see how close or far away they are from achieving mastery of the standards; final exams give specific data on how prepared they are for the next level of courses or how and in which standards they need to remediate in order to be prepared for following courses. Additionally, data collected from mid-term formative assessments is crucial for teachers in designing the instructional goals of the second semester. 5. Fort Lauderdale High school has been granted this waiver since the implementation of school waivers, resulting in our school having a 98% graduation rate, being an "A" school and having the

8. Recognizing that one strategy alone does not affect school-wide achievement, identify and explain the baseline data for the proposed waiver.

Since the start of this waiver in 2008, data has shown an increase in GPA every year that this waiver has been implemented. Students in 9th grade with a 2.0 GPA or higher increased by an average of 10% by the following year. Grades 10 and 11 showed the similar increases that averaged to 10 % by the following year.

According to the College Board PSAT/NMSQT, 9th Graders in 2017 that met or exceeded the benchmark were at a 54% proficiency, and the 2018 PSAT/NMSQT showed that 10th Graders who met or exceeded the benchmark were at 68% proficiency. 10th Graders on the 2017 PSAT/NMSQT performed at a 64% proficiency, and the 2018 PSAT/NMSQT data shows that 11th graders performed at a 65% proficiency.

The effectiveness of this waiver will be evaluated by evaluating and monitoring the number of students in grades 9-12 who earn and maintain for both semesters above a 2.0 state cumulative Grade Point Average Past Baseline Data: For 2018-2019 the first semester, the following data represents the percentage of students who earned above a 2.0 local GPA: Grade 9:91%; Grade 10: 86%; Grade 11: 91%; Grade 12: 98% of students earning above a 2.0 cumulative GPA.





9. What reliable research studies, proven strategies, best practices, or similar programs support the probable success of the proposed waiver?

With this exam exemption, Fort Lauderdale HS believes that the students have valued and will continue to value the examinations in which they have chosen to engage. The waiver will provide positive reinforcement of their hard work and accomplishments which is illustrated to the students in their final passing grades for their courses. Research shows these final passing grades increase the likelihood of future success. As indicated by the 75% of students who passed Cambridge/AICE exams, our exam exemption program has been highly successful for all levels of students. Many of the students in Cambridge/AICE courses began as level 1 or 2 students and they still have been successful not only in the rigorous AICE course work but also in passing the corresponding AICE exams. This demonstrates that by administering to students mid-term and final exams, as is done through the exam exemption program, we are successfully preparing students to become college-ready. In fact, our students are successfully taking college-level course work in high school and this is in large part due to the exam exemption.

10. **Fort Lauderdale High** will evaluate the effectiveness of the waiver each year. Include current data in alignment to the baseline data to measure the impact of the waiver.

11. We confirm that the **Exam Exemption** was implemented as described above:

Principal:  Date:  Signature:   
SAC Chairperson:  Date:  Signature: 

12. This waiver has been reviewed by:

Broward Teacher's Union Rep:  Date:  Signature: 

This waiver application, with original signatures, is to be kept on file at the school and made available to District personnel upon request.

A scanned version of the completed Waiver application, with signatures, and all other required documents are to be uploaded to [http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/ospa/sac\\_login.asp](http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/ospa/sac_login.asp) by the deadline noted in the timeline

The filename to upload is to be: SchoolName\_GradeLevel\_WaiverNumber\_Date.pdf, ex. *Abc\_ES\_1\_02082013.pdf*

Note: Waiver will be locked when clicking Submit

**Last updated on: Thursday, February 7, 2019**