

# 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:	South Broward High ▼
Board Policy/Contract Article:	6000.1
Board Approved:	Select One ▼
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 ▼

- South Broward High** is requesting a waiver for **Exam Exemption** for a period of 5 years. **South Broward 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:	11/26/2018
Community Meeting 2:	01/28/2019
Community Meeting 3:	01/28/2019
- The School Advisory Council voted on the **Exam Exemption** Waiver by 100% ▼ (minimum of 51%) on 01/28/2019.
- The Faculty voted on the implementation of **Exam Exemption** by 78% ▼ (minimum of 66 2/3%) on 02/06/2019 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.

#### 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.

Course Grade Exam Exemption: Starting in the 2019-2020 school year, students in grades 6-12 who earn a grade of B or better in a particular course may be exempt from the mid-term and/or final exams in that course under the following criteria: All students will be eligible to waive eligible midterms or final exams for up to one-half of all school or higher level courses on the student's regular school day schedule. For AP/IB/AICE, midterms cannot be exempted (The student may exempt the final exam). Teachers are encouraged to give an alternative assessment in lieu of a traditional final. Dual enrollment mid-terms and finals may NOT be exempted. The statewide, standardized EOC assessments, required by statute, are not eligible for exemption.

In addition to the aforementioned, students will NOT be able to exempt a midterm exam of a class that has a statewide, standardized EOC assessment.

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

South Broward High School recognizes the value of all students participating in the mid-term and final exam experiences. South Broward High School 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 training 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 articulating into the next level of courses within subject areas. Students clearly understand that they must master certain benchmarks of the Florida Standards 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.

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



The effectiveness of this waiver will be assessed 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. Teachers use the data from Midterm Assessments to adjust teaching to encourage success on EOC exams.

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


The School Improvement site shows that there are 16 new, continued, and discontinued exam exemption waivers in place during the 2007-2009 school years for high schools in Broward County. Of these, 7 schools have discontinued the exam exemption waiver due to the exam exemptions as incentives being ineffective and/or teachers voting it down. Three schools are in the first year of exam exemptions with no results reported at this time. With this exam exemption, 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 will results and is illustrated to the students in their final passing grades for their courses. Research shows these final passing grades will increase the likelihood of future success.

10. **South Broward 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:	Patricia Brown	Date: 02/08/2019	Signature: 
SAC Chairperson:	Veranice Smith	Date: 02/08/2019	Signature: 

12. This waiver has been reviewed by:

Broward Teacher's Union Rep:	Annie Feldman	Date: 01/28/2019	Signature: 
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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, March 14, 2019**