



Outcome Based Grading and Reporting Best Practices Position Paper

Title: Exemptions and Extra Credit

Definition:

- **Exemptions: excusing a student from a final summative assessment**
- **Extra credit (bonus marks): awarding a student extra marks**

Beliefs:

Exemptions and extra credit need to be based on evidence, collected from quality formative and summative assessments completed throughout the academic term, that demonstrate students have mastered the objectives presented in the course.

Research Summary:

In standards-based systems all marks and grades (pass/fail, A/B/C/D/F, etc.) should be determined by proficiency, not by seat time. Grades are broken if there is a direct impact because a behavioral variable is being allowed to distort achievement.

Extra credit (bonus marks) can distort a student's record of achievement. Grades are broken as a communication tool...when [they] do not demonstrate achievement of specified academic standards. ~ Ken O'Connor, A Repair Kit for Grading

BTPS Guidelines:

Responsibilities:

Teacher: The teacher will collect sufficient evidence of student achievement to help determine whether the student has met a level of proficiency which will allow them to be exempted from the final summative assessment in the course.

The teacher may provide opportunities for students to earn extra credit by allowing them to provide evidence of a higher level of achievement.

Student: In order to earn an exemption or extra credit, the student must demonstrate an established level of proficiency with the course objectives.

Schools: Schools will implement procedures that adhere to the district beliefs for the use of exemptions and/or extra credit.

Procedures:

Teachers will collect sufficient evidence that will allow them to determine whether a student has met established levels of proficiency before granting an exemption to a student.

Teachers may provide students with opportunities to earn extra credit by having them demonstrate evidence of a higher level of achievement.

Question and Answers:

Q: What can I give extra credit for?

A: Extra credit can be given for any evidence of a higher level of proficiency such as answering an additional question at a higher level of critical thinking or grade level, or completing a performance task, project, oral assessment or other method of demonstrating their knowledge.

Q: Can a student achieve a mark over 100%, or apply extra credit achieved on one assessment to another previously completed assessment?

A: No.

Q: Can a student be granted an exemption from a final summative assessment based solely on their attendance and citizenship?

A: No, because an exemption needs to be based on evidence of achievement.