

**Semester Exams at Richard King High School
2006-2007**

- 1. *What is the purpose of establishing a semester exam policy?***
Performance Standards were designed to test/assess long-term knowledge and skills. Since the district no longer uses Performance Standards as a measurement, the school must have in place an accountability system that holds teachers and students responsible for long-term learning. Semester tests are proven measurements of long-term learning.
- 2. *What are the benefits of having such a policy?***
Having a semester test policy in place will benefit students by preparing them for the expectations of college exams, by providing the opportunity for reteaching and retesting of TEKS objectives, and by assessing long-term learning in each course.
- 3. *Will all classes be required to give a semester test?***
Yes, all classes will be required to give a semester test.
- 4. *What will the exams test?***
In a semester course, the exams will test the TEKS established for that course. In a year-long course, the exam at the end of the second nine-weeks will test the TEKS objectives during the first two nine weeks. The test at the end of the course should be inclusive of all TEKS required of the course. In other words, students in courses that build on skills (math, foreign language, chemistry, etc) would be responsible for content for the year, not just the last two nine weeks. Assessments in the form of presentations, essays, projects, or skills tests may also be used. Departments should determine what is appropriate.
- 5. *Will all students be required to test in all subjects?***
Yes, all students will be required to test.
- 6. *Can students obtain an exemption from an exam?***
No.
- 7. *Can exams be taken early?***
No. Teachers must follow the test schedule.
- 8. *How much will the exam count?***
The exam will count as 20% of the second and fourth nine weeks' grades respectively.
- 9. *What if a student misses an exam?***
Students who miss an exam (unexcused) will have a zero averaged for 20% of the grade for that nine weeks. Students with an excused absence must make arrangements with the teacher to come on the teacher work day and take the exam. If the student cannot come on this day, the teacher will give the student an incomplete. Seniors with incompletes cannot graduate. Teachers will leave a copy of the semester exam, along with a grading key, with the principal for students to make up the exam at a later date. The principal will allow a one-week window for exams to be taken. After that week, a zero is averaged in and a final grade is determined.
- 10. *What will the testing schedule look like?***
The testing will occur over a 3 day period. . The semester tests will be approximately 90 minutes each. Tests for the seven class periods will be divided among the three days of testing. The schedule will be published two weeks prior to the testing.
- 11. *Can students leave the class once they have finished the exam?***
No. Students that take an exam MUST stay in the class for the whole exam time period. Teachers need to plan accordingly. Be respectful of other teachers' testing conditions.