

Motion on Final Exam Workgroup Recommendation

Beth Kennington, Chair, Grading and Reporting Committee

MCCPTA does not support the draft recommendation of the High School Final Exam Workgroup, which would replace the second semester final exam in MCPS AP/IB/CIE classes with a locally developed end-of-course culminating activity/assessment that would count as 25% of the semester grade.

Rationale:

A draft recommendation has been developed by an MCPS Committee charged with exploring the potential for exempting students from taking the MCPS final exam in Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/Cambridge International high school courses. The Final Exam Workgroup (Workgroup) last met on August 22 and thereafter advanced a draft recommendation to Dr. Freida Lacey. Erick Lang, the Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instructional Programs, indicates that it makes sense to finalize the draft recommendation of this workgroup after the MCCPTA formalizes its vote on the Workgroup's recommendation. We have informed Mr. Lang that the MCCPTA expects to advance an official position in October (after the next Delegates Assembly).

We speak with you tonight to formalize the feedback you have previously provided. That feedback demonstrated that a large majority (80%) oppose the current recommendation to exempt all students enrolled in AP/IB/Cambridge courses from the final exam and require them to complete an alternate culminating activity or assessment which would count for 25% of their second semester grade. This contradicts the vote of a majority of MCCPTA members who responded to an online survey by indicating that they would prefer to exempt all AP/IB/Cambridge students who take the AP/IB/CIE exam from taking an MCPS final exam.

The recommendation to replace the final with an alternate activity or assessment was made at the second-to-last meeting of the Workgroup, when the MCCPTA did not have the chance to solicit comments on the new language. Eighty percent of the MCCPTA parents who provided feedback to the Workgroup's recommendation did not support elimination of second semester finals in AP/IB/Cambridge courses if students will have to complete an alternate culminating activity or assessment. At this time, we ask that you speak with your local high schools and bring back its vote on this matter at the next DA on October 23rd.

Questions may be directed to Beth Kennington at bkenn@starpower.net or may be offered over the MCCPTA Grading and reporting listserv at:

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