

# Pugwash District High School

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Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

Over the fall months of 2019, Principals throughout our region guided their School Advisory Councils through discussion to carefully examine CCRCE's current Examination Exemption Protocol in high school courses. The review of the Protocol began because many schools felt that exemptions were no longer serving their original purpose, which was to motivate regular student attendance.

In spite of the original purpose, several factors caused many of our school communities to view exemptions as inequitable to students, especially those affected by social justice circumstances far beyond their control (e.g., health issues or family circumstances). Some of these situations are barriers for students as they attempt to attend school regularly. We also heard from school principals that there had been many situations where decisions around exemptions negatively impact the relationships within the school community. This goes against what we are attempting to achieve in CCRCE.

**After much consultation and while considering input from those impacted, a regional decision has been made to discontinue the practice of allowing high school students to exempt examinations in any course. This decision is effective immediately.**

We recognize this change will be an adjustment for our students and school communities. We appreciate your support as we discover opportunities such as this one that makes us reevaluate our current practices and ensure we are supporting all of our students to succeed in their education.

Thank you to all students, parents, and guardians for your patience as we gathered input this fall to make the best decision for all students in Chignecto Central Regional Centre for Education. A special thank you to those who participated in feedback sessions as School Advisory Council Members.

If you have any questions about this decision, please contact me at the school to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Shawn Brunt  
Principal

*"Creating a Climate of High Expectations for Success"*

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