

Board Policy

3.26 Academic Integrity

Students, teachers, and administrators work together to establish and maintain an academic environment that is fair to all students. Students are expected to strive to maintain academic integrity and to refrain from academic misconduct or from aiding others in academic misconduct. Academic misconduct is subject to disciplinary action defined by district and school/site procedures. Teachers will review the district policy and procedures regarding academic integrity at the beginning of every course and will incorporate instruction regarding the need for and value of academic integrity in their lessons.

GENERAL PROCEDURES

Definitions of Academic Misconduct

Scholastic Dishonesty	A breach of the standards of academic integrity including all forms of academic cheating; e.g., plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and any other act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student.
Cheating	Any attempt to defraud, deceive, or mislead the teacher and/or school administration in arriving at an honest evaluation of learning. Cheating includes aiding other students in cheating.
Plagiarism	A form of cheating that involves presenting as one's own, the ideas or work of another. Plagiarism is not a question of intent. Any use of the content or style of another's intellectual product without proper recognition of the source, constitutes plagiarism.
Furnishing False Information	Writing an exam or term paper for another student; soliciting another person to take an exam or write a paper for one's own class; submitting the same work in more than one course when doing so is prohibited; or representing oneself as another person.
Creating an Improper Disadvantage	Removing, defacing, hiding or deliberately withholding library books or other materials; contaminating a laboratory sample, etc.
Theft/Damage of Intellectual Property	Sabotaging or stealing another person's assignment, book, paper, notes, experiment, or project; improperly accessing or electronically interfering via computer or other means with the property of another person.
Selling or Distributing Materials	Selling or distributing course notes, handouts, readers or other information provided by a teacher without the teacher's permission.

Collusion

The act of forming a secret agreement for a fraudulent or illegal purpose.

Standard Consequences

When an incident of academic misconduct is suspected, the teacher will take reasonable action to establish whether it actually occurred. After giving the student notice of the allegation(s) and an opportunity to explain his or her actions, the teacher will take the following disciplinary actions when it has been determined that academic misconduct has occurred.

The consequence for academic misconduct will always be more severe than the consequence for failing to do, turn in, or complete an assignment or to take the test/exam/assessment in question.

First Occurrence

1. Zero credit for the assignment or examination.
2. Possible course failure based on the weight of assignment or examination.
3. The student is given the opportunity to make up the assignment/examination at the teacher's discretion at no credit.
4. The incident is reported to the division head and documented by the dean as a disciplinary incident, and the parent/guardian is notified by an administrator of the incident and possible course failure. "Academic Misconduct" is added to the discipline referral form.

Second Occurrence

1. Zero credit for the assignment or examination.
2. As a consequence, possible course failure as determined by the teacher and the principal's/director's designee(s).
3. The student is given the opportunity to make up the assignment/examination at the teacher's discretion at no credit.
4. Incident is reported to the division head and documented by the dean as a disciplinary incident and, the parent/guardian is notified by an administrator of the incident and possible course failure.
5. The student may be excluded from consideration for academic awards.

Third Occurrence

1. Course failure.
2. Incident is reported to the division head and documented by the dean as a disciplinary incident and, the parent/guardian is notified by an administrator of the incident and course failure.
3. The student will be excluded from consideration for academic awards.

Incidents of academic misconduct are cumulative in individual courses, i.e., an incident in one course is unrelated to any incidents in other courses. The administration, however, may detect a pattern of academic misconduct that requires an additional or alternative disciplinary intervention. The incident may be considered a cocurricular code violation.

School Rules, District Policies, and the Law

The consequences for violating the Academic Integrity policy are separate from and in addition to those assigned for violating school rules, other school district policies, and the law. Furthermore, this policy in no way limits the authority of the administration or Board of Education to impose other or additional consequences in accord with school rules and district policies.