

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The Governing Board believes that personal integrity is basic to all solid achievement. Students will reach their full potential only by being honest with themselves and with others.

The Board expects students to respect the educational purpose underlying all school activities. All students need to prove to themselves that they can do successful work as a result of their own efforts. The Board expects that students will not cheat, lie, or plagiarize.

The Board recognizes that students are more inclined to cheat when there is little likelihood of getting caught. Each school shall provide an environment that encourages honesty. Students must know that their teachers will not ignore or condone cheating and that anyone discovered cheating will be penalized.

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

Teachers shall instruct students in research and study skills appropriate to each subject, so that all students may feel confident that if they prepare, they can succeed without cheating. Students shall be encouraged to see tests as a means for finding out what they have learned. They shall be reminded that students who cheat on tests are cheating themselves.

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

Legal Reference

Education Code

35291.5 Rules and procedure on school discipline; adoption; enforcement; notice; filing; review

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Statement of Philosophy

The primary goals of any educational institution should be to enhance the learning environment and to promote the pursuit of intellectual excellence. The District believes that our public schools should reinforce the values of our democratic society, teach citizenship, and provide an environment conducive to ethical behavior. The entire Visalia Unified School District community believes that the school should maintain a climate in which honesty, courtesy, consideration, integrity and a concern for others are highly valued.

Cheating is an obstacle to achieving these goals. Many factors lead to cheating, however, no reason makes cheating acceptable. In any of its forms, and for whatever reason cheating denies the value of education. Our teaching staff strives to place the importance of learning above that of grades and to impress upon students that their best efforts are always expected.

Definition of Honesty and Cheating

Deriving its root from the word honor, honesty is refraining from lying, cheating; being truthful, trustworthy or upright, sincere, straightforward and fair. The honest person is respected as one who is truthful and trustworthy. They are viewed being of high moral character or integrity, and honor.

Cheating is defined as obtaining or providing any help on an assignment or test where the intent was that the student complete the assignment or test by himself/herself.

The teacher's professional judgment will determine whether cheating has occurred. Students shall not give the instructor cause to consider their actions dishonest.

The following should be considered a sample list of types of cheating that may occur. It is not intended to be all inclusive or comprehensive.

1. Looking at someone else's paper during a test or quiz.
2. Unauthorized talking with another student during a test or quiz.

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3. Using any unauthorized "cheat notes."
4. Allowing someone to see or use one's own or another's paper during a test or on any individual assignment.
5. Copying work assigned to be done independently or allowing someone else to copy one's own or another's work.

** Since individual teachers hold different expectations with regard to homework, it is up to the teacher to clarify their expectations to the students regarding individual assignments.

6. Copying sentences phrases, or passages from an uncited source while writing a paper or doing research.
7. Giving or receiving any test information.
8. Submitting individual projects or assignments not wholly one's own, with or without the permission of the author. This may also include computer generated information and programs (i.e. copying from a diskette or downloading from the Internet).
9. Fabrication or altering any information or lab data.

Consequences:

First Instance:

- A. The student will receive zero/non credit for the assignment/exam.
- B. The teacher will confer with the student and review cheating policy.
- C. The teacher will notify the administrator with a referral.

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- D. The teacher will notify the parents/guardian and inform them of the incident.

Second Instance:

- A. The student will receive a zero/no credit for the assignment/exam.
- B. The teacher will notify the Dean.
- C. The Dean will arrange and be a part of a student/parent/teacher/counselor conference.
- D. School suspension 1-3 days

Third Instance

- A. Student receives zero/no credit for assignment/exam.
- B. The teacher will refer the student to the Dean.
- C. The student will be dropped from the course with an "F" grade for the semester.
- D. The Dean will notify the parents of the occurrence.
- E. School suspension 3-5 days

Regulation
approved: February 23, 1999

VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Visalia, California