

**ACADEMIC HONESTY**

The Governing Board believes that academic honesty and personal integrity are fundamental components of a student's education and character development. The Board expects that students will not cheat, lie, plagiarize, or commit other acts of academic dishonesty. Students, parents/guardians, staff, and administrators shall be responsible for creating and maintaining a positive school climate that encourages honesty. Students found to have committed an act of academic dishonesty shall be subject to district and school-site discipline rules.

The Superintendent or designee may establish a committee comprised of students, parents/guardians, staff, administrators, and members of the public to develop standards of academic honesty, measures of preventing dishonesty, and specific consequences for acts of dishonesty. Any recommendations for discipline shall be incorporated into the school's site level discipline rules.

**Prohibited and Permitted Technology Use**

As the district's standards for academic achievement are designed to challenge all students to reach their full potential in acquiring the knowledge and skills needed for success in postsecondary education, employment, and responsible citizenship, any use of technology that prevents or inhibits a student from achieving these standards is prohibited. Prohibited uses include, but are not limited to, using technology primarily or solely for the completion of coursework as a student's original work and generating answers to mathematical, scientific, or analytical problems.

Permitted uses of technology include, but are not limited to, conducting research, correcting grammar and spelling, and learning from educational applications such as tutoring systems and language learning applications.

Additionally, consistent with the limitations expressed in this policy and with teacher consent, students may also use technology to assist with assessments, homework, and/or makeup work or other uses approved by the teacher.

However, a student with a disability shall be permitted to use technology for any purpose identified in the student's individualized education program as a tool to support the student's learning.

If an employee suspects that a student has used technology in violation of this policy, the student shall be given the opportunity to demonstrate that the use of technology was in accordance with this policy.

Any information acquired from an employee's use of technology in determining whether a student has committed an act of academic dishonesty shall be shared with the student, and the student's parent/guardian as appropriate.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY**

The Superintendent or designee may provide training to staff regarding the use of technology to improve education, including the detection of plagiarism and sensitivity to potential discrimination from algorithmic bias.

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Policy Reference Disclaimer:  
These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
Ed. Code 35291-35291.5	Rules
Ed. Code 56341.1	Assistive technology devices for a student with a disability
<b>Federal</b>	<b>Description</b>
20 USC 1401	Assistive technology device; definition
<b>Management Resources</b>	<b>Description</b>
Metropolitan Ed. Research Consortium Publication	Balancing the Benefits and Risks of AI Large Language Models in K12 Public Schools, 2023
USDOE Office of Educational Technology Publication	Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Teaching and Learning: Insights and Recommendations, May 2023
Website	Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services

**ACADEMIC HONESTY** (continued)

<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
5131	Conduct
5131.8	Mobile Communication Devices
5137	Positive School Climate
5144	Discipline
5144	Discipline
6000	Concepts And Roles
6141	Curriculum Development And Evaluation
6141	Curriculum Development And Evaluation
6154	Homework/Makeup Work
6159	Individualized Education Program
6159	Individualized Education Program
6162.5	Student Assessment
6162.54	Test Integrity/Test Preparation
6162.6	Use Of Copyrighted Materials
6162.6	Use Of Copyrighted Materials
6163.4	Student Use Of Technology
6163.4-E(1)	Student Use Of Technology

Policy  
 adopted: February 23, 1999  
 revised: March 9, 2021  
 revised: March12, 2024

**VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
 Visalia, California

**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.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY** (continued)

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.