

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.

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

(cf. 6162.6 - Use of Copyrighted Materials)

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. Additional information on student behavior and discipline may be found in the student code of conduct.

(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

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.

Regulation
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VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Visalia, California