

Year: 2019	
Policy Number: 6600	
Section:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Relations <input type="checkbox"/> Administration <input type="checkbox"/> Business Procedures <input type="checkbox"/> Community Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Students <input type="checkbox"/> Instruction	

SUBJECT: Academic Integrity Policy

Philosophy

Health Sciences Charter School (“HSCS”) students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic conduct and personal integrity. The HSCS faculty is committed to helping students avoid unintentional plagiarism and understand the rules of responsible scholarship.

Implications of Cheating

Students who cheat deprive themselves of the opportunity to learn and especially, how to think. Knowing how to think critically in each subject area prepares students for university classes, as well as any profession they pursue. Cheating is destructive to the entire school community since it damages relationships and engenders mistrust in teachers and classmates. Students who do not cheat also suffer by the inflated grades that result from academic misconduct. Students who choose to cheat or plagiarize will face the risk that teachers and counselors may not want to write their letters of recommendation for college. If students are suspended for cheating or plagiarism, they are required to admit it in their college applications for private schools. Students face life-changing consequences when they choose to cheat rather than earning grades honestly through hard work and good study habits. If students are ever unclear about the guidelines regarding the correct way to cite sources, it is their responsibility to consult with their teachers before submitting an assignment. Cheating and plagiarism are forms of academic misconduct and are both dishonest choices that students can avoid. Ignorance about what constitutes cheating is not a defense.

Definitions

Cheating

Cheating is when a student uses another person's work and passes it off as their own. For example, it is cheating when a student:

- Copies answers from another student's test paper;
- Copies another student's homework;
- Uses "crib notes," cell phones, or some other method to secretly look at information to answer test questions with spelling words, definitions, math formulas;
- Uses a cell phone or other device to take pictures of tests and exams and sends them to another student, or text messages questions and answers to another student; or
- Has another student to do his/her homework.

Plagiarism

A form of cheating that includes:

- Buying a pre-written term paper or essay and turns it in as his/her own;
- Copying word-for-word another person's opinions or thoughts from a book, magazine, newspaper or online article and passes it on as his/her own work; or
- Paraphrasing or summarizing someone else's opinions or thoughts and passing it on as his/her own.

Consequences

The consequences of cheating or plagiarism can be severe. Students will receive a zero (0) on their assignment or test and may face suspension from school and a notation on their permanent record.

The consequences of cheating and plagiarism at Health Sciences Charter School are as follows:

First Incident:

- 1) Teacher discretion with possibility of a zero on exam or assignment;
- 2) Parent Contact; and
- 3) Teacher explains future consequences of the 2nd or 3rd offense to student and parent.

If the student refuses the teacher's directive, this is insubordination and the student will be referred to the Assistant Principal.

Second Incident:

- 1) 1-3 noted above in "First Incident";
- 2) Referral to Assistant Principal who schedules an appearance before the Academic Review Board; and
- 3) One (1) day suspension (or a warning and detention).

Third Incident:

- 1) 1-3 noted above in "First Incident"; and
- 2) 1-3 days of suspension (In consultation with the teacher, counselor, and administrator, consequences may be modified depending on the circumstances of each incident).

All students receive this policy in their HSCS Discipline Regulations/Student Handbook. Students and parents will be required to sign and date this policy each year before school begins, along with their registration and emergency contact forms.

Supporting Procedures:

Related Laws, Regulations & Acts:

Adopted: 5/6/2021