
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Excel Academy Charter School and its programs (“EACS” or the “Charter School”) adopt this Academic Integrity Policy to apply to all students at EACS.

Excel Academy considers academic honesty to be one of its highest values. Students are expected to be the sole authors of their work and to exhibit honest behavior and academic integrity. Students must neither give nor receive any unauthorized aid on any test, paper, or assignment. Use of another person’s work or ideas must be accompanied by specific citations and references. The purpose of this policy is to create and maintain ethics and integrity in all academic endeavors and to provide our students with the tools to write with integrity.

Upon enrollment and at the beginning of each school year, students and parents/guardians will be given a back-to-school packet which includes an overview of Excel Academy’s plagiarism policy including an invitation to access and use the Teacher of Record’s Google Classroom account. With the help of the Teacher of Record, parents/guardians and students will discuss the Academic Integrity Code and sign an Academic Honesty Pledge.

Definition of Plagiarism

The unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work.

- All high school students will sign the [Plagiarism Academic Honesty Pact](#).
- All high school students will submit at least two papers each semester to Google Classroom.

Examples of plagiarism and academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to:

- Quoting someone else's words, sentences, paragraphs, or an entire paper without acknowledging the source within the paper or written assignment
- Simply listing your sources in the Works Cited page but not citing them in your writing
- Paraphrasing someone else's ideas, opinions, or thoughts without acknowledging the source
- Only citing a portion of the source; even if only one source is used all references need to be cited
- Copying another student's work, paper, and/or essays and turning it in as your own
- Copying another student's computer file or work and submitting the work as your own
- Buying any completed or partial work written by someone else and using it as your own work
- Copying answers from a teacher’s manual rather than using the manual to check answers

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- Turning in work that you have done for other classes or writing assignments—this is considered academic dishonesty. You need to turn in original writing for each class and assignment
- Any other form of cheating

The above examples represent examples of plagiarism and/or academic dishonesty. Whether a student copies something word-for-word or rephrases the ideas of another student and/or writer without properly acknowledging the source, both constitute examples of plagiarism. Excel Academy recognizes the accessibility of information and online sources. It is therefore imperative for students to review this document with their Teacher of Record and ensure steps to avoid plagiarism.

Process for Addressing Incidents of Academic Dishonesty**First incident:**

If a student is suspected of plagiarism or academic dishonesty:

First incident:

If a student is suspected of plagiarism or academic dishonesty in any course:

- The ToR will confirm the student plagiarized or has been academically dishonest.
- If confirmed, student will receive an F/zero on the assignment in question. The student will be required to redo the assignment by the following Learning Period meeting for a new grade which will be at the teacher's discretion.
- The ToR will consult with school administration.
- A plan will be created to help the student learn about plagiarism and/or academic dishonesty and how to avoid it in the future.
- Student must view webinar on academic integrity shared by the ToR.
- Student will be issued a PIN if the incident is deemed intentional.

Second incident:

If a student is suspected of plagiarism or academic dishonesty in any course for a second time:

- The ToR will confirm the student plagiarized or has been academically dishonest.
- If confirmed, the student will receive an F/zero in the course.

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- A meeting with ToR, parent, and school administration will be scheduled to explain the severity of the issue, to provide additional support, and to warn student that they will be required to retake the course with a passing grade to receive credit for the course.
- Student will be issued a PIN if this is a second occurrence of either plagiarism or academic dishonesty.

Third incident:

If a student is suspected of plagiarism or academic dishonesty in any course for a third time:

- The ToR will confirm the student plagiarized or has been academically dishonest.
- If confirmed, student will receive an F/zero for the course they plagiarized.
- A meeting with ToR, parent, and school administration will be scheduled.
- Student may be subject to discipline in accordance with applicable due process provisions in accordance with the relevant charter petition, which is available upon request.
- Related educational records, including disciplinary records, may be provided to colleges or other school districts where the student seeks to enroll or transfer as permitted in accordance with applicable law.
- A meeting with the ToR, parent, and school administration will be scheduled to explain the severity of the issue, to provide additional support, and to warn student that they are in jeopardy of being involuntarily withdrawn from the school.
- Student will be issued a PIN if this is a third occurrence of either plagiarism or academic dishonesty.

Grievance Procedure

The following procedure is established to ensure that students' grievances are addressed fairly by the appropriate persons in a timely manner. The school prohibits discrimination against students/families on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, gender, national origin, or religion.

If a student is accused of plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty and the parent/student disagrees:

- The student and parent/guardian will address the school administrator in writing with the reason for the grievance, including why they believe the accusation is not accurate/appropriate.

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- The school administrator will investigate and respond with a written determination within ten (10) working days
- If the concern or grievance is not resolved, the student and parent/guardian may, within ten (10) working days, request a review with the governing board. The board shall investigate and respond to the student and parent/guardian within ten (10) school days after the review. The decision of the board will be accomplished by the vote of a simple majority and the decision is final.

Consequences for incidents of academic dishonesty are cumulative and are not specific to one course.

Special Education Students

If the at-risk student is an identified Special Education student, including a student with an IEP, the teacher will contact the Special Education Department and comply with all provisions of applicable law in addressing any student conduct concerns, including plagiarism. If the student has a 504 plan, the teacher will notify the Intervention Coordinator.