



Boulder Valley School District

File: JFA-R

Adopted: April 10, 2007

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND INTEGRITY

SECTION I: INTRODUCTION AND RATIONALE

BVSD Mission: the Boulder Valley School District challenges students to achieve their academic, creative and physical potential in order to become responsible, contributing citizens.

The Boulder Valley School District recognizes the importance of promoting a learning environment that values academic honesty. In order to foster ethical behavior in our students and thus meet the goals outlined in the BVSD Mission Statement and the graduation requirements prescribed in the New Century Graduate, we believe that educating all students regarding the characteristics of academic integrity is a critical component in successfully preparing them for their future endeavors.

When engaged in learning activities, students should demonstrate the discipline necessary to seek guidance from their instructor rather than resorting to inappropriate behaviors that may undermine their own academic and personal development. Therefore, the District will actively support our students in taking ownership of their learning both inside and outside of the classroom. District educators will encourage the development of ethical behavior in their students and support constructive dialogue regarding the characteristics of academic integrity in their classes. This is a shared responsibility of all parties: students, parents, and District educators.

This regulation defines those behaviors that constitute unethical academic behavior and outlines the range of consequences schools can consider when infractions occur. Faculty and students should be certain to allocate time to review this regulation and discuss any additional expectations that emerge.

This regulation and the associated policy will be printed and distributed to all students annually in the *Student Rights and Responsibilities Guide*. Students will be expected to acknowledge that they have received information related to academic honesty and that they understand the expectations placed upon them as members of the BVSD academic community.

SECTION II: POLICY

Boulder Valley School District students are expected to respond to academic challenges with the highest degree of integrity and honesty that support the culture of the community and the characteristics of the New Century Graduate.

SECTION III: DEFINITIONS

Academic Integrity: Compliance to accepted ethical standards

Academic Dishonesty: Deliberate, unacceptable behaviors that include but are not limited to: misrepresentation, obtaining unauthorized information, and tendering of information

Misrepresentation: Students misrepresent their work by handing in the work of someone else:

- Plagiarizing: unacknowledged use of information, ideas, or phrasing of others. This includes copying exact words of another writer without proper documenting of source, stealing or passing off words, graphics, and artwork that is not one's own
- Purchasing a paper from a service or other sources
- Reproducing another person's paper and submitting it as one's own
- Having someone else take an exam
- Inventing of information or citation in an academic exercise and misquoting or quoting out of context
- Submitting a reproduction of another person's work
- Signing of another's name to an official document and/or submission of information known to be false

Obtaining unauthorized information: Information that is obtained dishonestly:

- Copying homework
- Working with another student on work that is intended to be done independently
- Downloading and submitting term papers from on-line resources
- Sharing answers through data storage devices
- Using cell phones or PDA devices to take electronic pictures of exams
- Text-messaging answers of academic work
- Stealing materials for teachers or classmates

Tendering of information: Students giving or selling their work to another person who plans to submit it as his or her own:

- Giving work to another student to be copied
- Giving someone answers to an exam during an exam

- Discussing an assessment with students who have not yet been assessed on the material
- Giving or selling a written assignment to another student

SECTION IV: INFRACTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

Suspected incidents of academic dishonesty should be referred by instructional staff to the school's administration for investigation. In order to maintain a reasonable level of consistency within a school, consequences will be applied by the school's administration after consultation with the appropriate instructional staff.

The general magnitude of an infraction and the level of premeditation involved should be considered before consequences are determined. Schools should strive to maintain consistency in consequences from infraction to infraction.

Possible consequences to infractions may include:

- Parent/Guardian conference with teacher(s) and/or administration
- A certified letter to be signed by the parent/guardian
- A failing grade for the assignment
- Redo the assignment within a given amount of time
- Suspension
- Suspension of Internet access
- Suspension of Network privileges
- A failing grade for the class
- Ineligibility for groups/activities
- Community service
- Restorative Justice

Students should be reminded that a violation of copyright law carries criminal penalties.

Appeals related to this regulation should follow the process outlined in Policy KL and KL-R, *Public Complaints*.

LEGAL REFERENCES:

C.R.S. § 22-29-101 and 103, *Character Education*

CROSS REFERENCES:

JF subcodes (all pertain to aspects of student rights and responsibilities)

JG, Student Discipline, and subcodes

KL and KL-R, *Public Complaints*

End of File: JFA-R