

The Policy Committee recommended this policy be rescinded at its public work session on November 16, 2023, and combined with Policy JFC.

File: JGC

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Rationale:

Academic integrity is a core value in the Washington County Public Schools and serves as one of the cornerstones for our vision of becoming a world-class school system. Striving for high achievements must rest on a foundation of respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, citizenship, and caring. Academic integrity enables the social value of regard for others and their work to exist within the school community. It ensures that achievements are honestly earned and can stand on their own merit. Academic integrity also instills values that will serve students well in all of their intellectual endeavors.

Students have an obligation to their school, teachers, peers, parents, and the community to act with integrity in scholarship and in general academic work. Expression of original, well-formulated ideas is a fundamental skill for academic and career success. Staff, parents, and the community must be able to trust that the work of students is the product of their own learning and academic effort. Grades and diplomas must represent honest work and accomplishments. In a competitive world, it is essential that all members of our school community uphold a standard that places the integrity of each student's honestly earned achievements above higher grades or easier work dishonestly attained.

Each student's work should be held to the highest standards of honesty. Academic dishonesty in any form demonstrates a lack of integrity, shows character that is inconsistent with the goals and values of the Washington County Public Schools, and violates an ethic of mutual regard. It impairs the school's educational role and defrauds all who comprise its community. It skews the learning process and interferes with the assessment and feedback process necessary to promote academic growth. It compromises the instructional process by giving teachers and parents a false view of a student's academic ability and effort. Academic dishonesty may prevent further needed instruction and delay a student's reaching his or her potential.

Policy:

The School Board's policy delineated below is intended to promote the highest standards of academic integrity consistent with the Board's vision for Washington County Public Schools as a world-class school system. Academic integrity requires that all assignments that students complete and submit represent their own work, concepts, ideas, and wording that have been honestly and truthfully developed and composed. When the work of others is incorporated into assignments submitted, students must properly credit that work.

All students will sign a statement of promise to uphold academic integrity. Parents must also sign the statement to acknowledge that they are aware of the standards of integrity to which students will be held. Consideration will be given for the developmental appropriateness of instruction with respect to the policy. The statement of promise will be included in the *County Handbook for Parents, Guardians, Students, and Staff*, and will read as follows:

I promise to uphold the Washington County Public Schools standards for Academic Integrity. I hold the qualities of honesty and integrity in highest regard and will not violate them or support those who do.

Student _____ **Parent** _____ **Date** _____

The signed promise will be submitted to and retained by the appropriate teacher at each school.

Policy Adopted: June 1, 2004
Board of Education of Washington County