
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Sage Oak Charter Schools (“SOCS” or the “Charter School”) adopt this Academic Integrity Policy to apply to all students at SOCS.

The school considers academic honesty to be one of its highest values. Students are expected to be the sole authors of his/her work and to exhibit honest behavior and academic integrity. Students must neither give nor receive any unauthorized aid on any test, paper, or assignment. The purpose of this policy is to create and maintain ethics and integrity in all academic endeavors and to provide our students with an understanding of what is and is not acceptable.

Upon enrollment and at the beginning of each school year students and parents/guardians will be required to complete high school orientation, which includes resources on academic integrity and plagiarism and a discussion about the Academic Integrity Code.

Academic Integrity Code: I will not cheat or give or receive any unauthorized aid on any test, paper, or assignment.

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

1. Quoting someone else's words, sentences, paragraphs, or an entire paper without acknowledging the source
2. Paraphrasing someone else's ideas, opinions, or theory without acknowledging the source
3. The use of artificial intelligence tools, including but not limited to language models, to generate content that is then presented as one's own original work without proper acknowledgment.
4. Imitating someone else's structure or argument without acknowledging the source
5. Using more of a source than you acknowledged in your citation
6. Copying a fellow student's work, paper, and/or essay and turning it in as your own
7. Copying another student's computer file and submitting the work as your own, or allowing such to happen
8. Buying an essay, paper, or written work online without acknowledging the source
9. Citing information or content generated by artificial intelligence without disclosing the nature of the AI tool used.
10. Utilizing AI to generate essays, answers, or any form of academic work without proper disclosure and citation.

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11. Presenting AI-generated content, including ideas, theories, or arguments, as one's own without acknowledging the use of AI.
12. Changing or altering a grade
13. Using teacher manuals or answer keys, exam admin codes, etc.
14. Communicating verbally or nonverbally with another student during a test, or by working on an assignment with another student while in the possession or vicinity of another student's work without prior teacher permission.
15. Searching the internet for answers to test questions
16. Failing to explicitly mention the use of an AI tool when submitting work that has been significantly assisted or generated by such technology.

Regardless of the student's intent, the above acts constitute plagiarism and/or academic dishonesty. In essence, plagiarism is the theft of someone else's ideas and/or work. Whether a student copies verbatim or simply rephrases the ideas of another without properly acknowledging the source, it is still plagiarism. In the preparation of work submitted to meet course requirements, whether a draft or a final version of a paper or project, students must take great care to distinguish their own ideas and language from information derived from other sources. Sources include published primary and secondary materials, electronic media, and information and opinions gathered directly from other people. It is the responsibility of the student to avoid the appearance of both violating and intending to violate the Academic Integrity Code.

Process for Addressing Incidents of Academic Dishonesty

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

First incident:

If a student is suspected of plagiarism or academic dishonesty:

1. The teacher of record will confirm the student plagiarized or has been academically dishonest
2. The teacher of record will fill out the Academic Integrity Tracker and will assign the student the level 1 plagiarism tasks. The level 1 tasks and the Academic Integrity policy will be reviewed at the next Learning Period Meeting.

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3. The student will receive an 'F' on the assignment and will redo the assignment. The redone assignment will be graded, and the grade will be averaged with the 'F' earned for the original assignment.
4. The 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.
5. If a student is found to have used AI inappropriately, the same process applies as with traditional plagiarism. However, additional emphasis will be placed on educating the student about the ethical use of AI in academic work and understanding AI's role and limitations in academic work.

Second incident:

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

1. The teacher of record will confirm the student plagiarized or has been academically dishonest.
2. The teacher of record will fill out the Academic Integrity Tracker and will schedule a conference call with the parent and student to discuss the circumstances that led to the incident, review the Academic Integrity policy, and explain the consequences of a second offense.
3. The student will receive an 'F' for the assignment and re-do the assignment. The redone assignment will be graded, and the grade will be averaged into the 'F' grade earned for the original assignment.
4. The 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.
5. The same escalating consequences apply as with traditional forms of plagiarism. Repeated misuse of AI tools will be treated with the same severity as other forms of academic dishonesty.

Third incident:

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

1. The teacher of record will confirm the student plagiarized or has been academically dishonest.

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2. The student will receive an 'F' on the assignment and will not be able to redo the assignment.
3. The student will receive a reduction of one letter grade for the entire course of the third incident, regardless of in which courses the first two offenses occurred.
4. The teacher of record will fill out the Academic Integrity Tracker and will schedule a conference call with the parent, student, and Regional Mentor or Lead Coordinator to discuss the circumstances that led to the incident, review the Academic Integrity policy, and explain the consequences of a third offense.
5. The 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.
6. The same escalating consequences apply as with traditional forms of plagiarism. Repeated misuse of AI tools will be treated with the same severity as other forms of academic dishonesty.

Fourth incident:

If a student is suspected of plagiarism or academic dishonesty for a fourth time:

1. The teacher of record will confirm the student plagiarized or has been academically dishonest.
2. The student will receive an 'F' on the assignment and will not be able to redo the assignment.
3. The student will receive a reduction of one letter grade for the entire course of the fourth incident, regardless of in which courses the first three offenses occurred.
4. The teacher of record will fill out the Academic Integrity Tracker and will schedule a conference call with the student, parent/guardian, and Principal or Counselor to discuss the circumstances that led to the incident, review the Academic Integrity policy, and explain the consequences of a fourth offense.
5. Related education 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. Comments will be added to the student's report card.
6. The 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.

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7. The same escalating consequences apply as with traditional forms of plagiarism. Repeated misuse of AI tools will be treated with the same severity as other forms of academic dishonesty.

Special Education Students

If the at-promise student is identified as a student with Special Education needs, 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 504 Coordinator.

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/guardian and/or student disagrees:

1. The student and parent/guardian will address the Principal of the High School in writing with the reason for the grievance, including why they believe the accusation is not accurate/appropriate.
2. The Principal of High School will investigate and respond with a written determination within ten (10) working days.
3. 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.