



Best Practices Position Paper

Title: Academic Dishonesty

Definition:

Academic dishonesty is the practice of representing other people's work as your own. This could be:

- plagiarism (using another's work without citing the original author)
- cheating (possession of unauthorized material, submission of another student's material, copying off someone else's summative assessment or providing answers to another student during a summative assessment).

Beliefs:

A student's grade should be based on evidence of the student's understanding and achievement of the academic outcomes for that course. While academic dishonesty is a serious offense by a student, consequences should be behavioral, as this is a behavioral issue. Assigning a mark of zero for academic dishonesty is not an appropriate consequence because it is a misrepresentation of the student's achievement of the outcomes.

Research Summary:

"Academic dishonesty deprives everyone of quality evidence of student achievement. The appropriate assessment consequence is to have students redo the work with honesty and integrity." ~ Ken O'Connor, A Repair Kit For Grading

"No studies support the use of low grades or marks as punishments. Instead of prompting greater effort, low grades more often cause students to withdraw from learning." ~ Guskey and Bailey, 2001, pp 34-35

BTPS Guidelines:

Responsibilities:

Teacher:

Teachers will in accordance with school policy and BTPS administrative procedures report offenses to the school's administration who, in consultation with the teacher, will determine and assign behavioral consequences for incidents of academic dishonesty. Consequences will vary depending on the intentionality and severity of the incident.

Student:

Students will demonstrate academic integrity when completing assignments. Students

who display academic dishonesty will need to redo their assignment or exam, or display their achievement of the outcomes being assessed in an alternate manner (with the exception of final summative assessments, e.g. end of term final exam or final project – refer to Q and A below).

School:

Schools will develop and provide an academic honesty policy, which clearly describes inappropriate practices and the consequences for breaches, to all students, teachers and parents.

Schools will, in accordance with BTPS administrative procedures, develop protocols to deal with academic dishonesty that focus on behavioral consequences. These consequences may include, but are not limited to: redoing assignments or exams, detentions, administrative intervention, parent meetings, and/or suspensions.

Procedures:

Schools and staffs will communicate to and instruct students on the importance of academic integrity and appropriate methods to demonstrate this.

Students who do not comply will have the issue reviewed under the jurisdiction of the school's policy on academic dishonesty.

Question and Answers:

Q: Can I give a student a zero for cheating on a test?

A: Not without giving the student the opportunity to redo the assignment or test with academic integrity, unless the student cheats on a final course assessment. In such cases, the student may be assigned an earned zero for a final course assessment.