

Method Schools Board Policy: Academic Integrity and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence

Purpose

Method Schools is committed to upholding a culture of academic integrity, fostering student growth through personal effort, and preparing students to become ethical, self-directed learners. This policy outlines expectations and guidelines regarding plagiarism, including the misuse of Artificial Intelligence (AI), and provides a clear framework for maintaining academic accountability.

Policy Overview

Academic integrity is a core value of Method Schools. Students are expected to complete their work independently and honestly. While technology and AI tools can enhance learning, students must use them responsibly, ensuring that all work submitted reflects their own understanding and effort.

Expectations for Student Work

- All assignments submitted by students must be their own work, demonstrating independent thinking and engagement with the learning process.
- The use of AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Grammarly, etc.) is permitted only when used responsibly—as a means of support, not substitution.
- Acceptable uses of AI include:
 - Requesting feedback on specific aspects of already completed work (e.g., grammar, clarity).
 - Seeking guidance on how to begin an assignment (e.g., creating an outline).
- Unacceptable uses include submitting AI-generated content as original work or using AI to bypass the learning process.

Response to Violations

If a student submits plagiarized or AI-generated work, the following process will be followed:

1. **Direct Communication:** The teacher will speak directly with the student to discuss the nature of the concern and determine the underlying reasons for the misuse.
2. **Student Reflection and Support:** The conversation will focus on identifying academic challenges the student may be facing and offering appropriate support.
3. **Opportunity to Redo:** The student will be given one opportunity to redo the assignment for full credit, after understanding the expectations and receiving guidance.
4. **Family Notification:** Parents or Learning Coaches will be notified of the concern, reinforcing the school's commitment to academic integrity and outlining steps for improvement.

5. **Repeat Offenses:** An administrator will meet with the family to determine if placement in independent study is still appropriate. Student may be withdrawn if administration determines that placement is not conducive to the student's learning needs.

Parent and Student Partnership

We ask parents and Learning Coaches to partner with us in reinforcing these expectations at home by:

- Reviewing the Academic Integrity Policy with your student as outlined in the Parent/Student Handbook.
- Encouraging open conversations about the importance of personal effort and honesty in schoolwork.
- Supporting students in developing responsible digital habits and using AI as a learning aid, not a replacement.

Ongoing Commitment

Method Schools is committed to maintaining high academic standards while offering students the support they need to succeed. We believe that academic accountability, high expectations, and meaningful support must coexist to build a strong learning culture.

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it reflects evolving technology trends and continues to serve the best interests of our students and community.