

RANCHO SANTA FE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Policy No. 6031: PUPIL HONESTY

- A. The District requires all of its pupils to demonstrate honesty (1) by not **cheating** in any District-sponsored educational activity or other activity related to school attendance, (2) by not **lying** to employees of the District in any District-sponsored educational activity or other activity related to school attendance, and (3) by not **stealing** anything of value from the District or anyone else in any District-sponsored educational activity or other activity related to school attendance.
- B. This Policy prohibits pupils from **cheating** in any District-sponsored educational activity or other activity related to school attendance. Cheating occurs whenever a pupil fraudulently acts out of self-interest or assists another to do so with the intent to gain or give an unfair advantage. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, using someone else's unauthorized assistance in taking any test (or any other classroom assignment), using unauthorized notes in taking any test (or other classroom assignment), allowing someone else to work on or complete assigned homework, allowing another pupil to copy one's test answer or assignment, plagiarism (presenting someone else's ideas, words, data, or work as one's own, misrepresentation (failing to document the assistance of another in the preparation, revision, or proofreading of an assignment), or using unauthorized notes in any educational activity. Cheating also includes any violation of any rule in a District sponsored sport or physical education activity, or any refusal or failure to follow a directive from a District employee in a District-sponsored sport or physical education activity.
- C. This Policy prohibits pupils from **lying** to employees of the District in any District sponsored educational activity or other activity related to school attendance. Lying occurs whenever a pupil fabricates or knowingly provides false information to any employee of the District. Lying includes, but is not limited to, forgery of parent or legal guardian signature on a District form, forgery of a message or note from a parent or legal guardian, including any e-mail message, knowingly providing false information on any other District form, or knowingly providing false information to a District employee conducting an investigation.
- D. This Policy prohibits pupils from **stealing** anything of value from the District or anyone else in any District-sponsored educational activity or other activity related to school attendance. Stealing occurs whenever a pupil wrongfully takes, or withholds by any means from the possession of the District or other owner any money, personal property, article, or service of value of any kind, with the intent to permanently deprive or defraud the District or other owner of the use and benefit of the property, or to appropriate it to either the pupil's own use or the use of any other person other than the District or other owner. Stealing includes, but is not limited to, theft or unauthorized destruction or alteration of District property such as textbooks, other instructional materials, District owned iPads, District-owned computers, or any other District-owned equipment. Stealing also includes the theft or unauthorized destruction

or alteration of personal property owned by a District employee or another pupil, or the parent or legal guardian or any other family member of another pupil.

- E. A pupil may be disciplined for any violation of this Policy, except that no pupil may be expelled for a first and/or a minor violation of this Policy.
- F. Any disciplinary action for a violation of this Policy will be appropriate under all of the circumstances, and shall be finalized only after the parent or legal guardian has been given a reasonable opportunity to meet with the Superintendent or designee on the matter. The Superintendent's decision on any disciplinary action shall be final. In addition, in accordance with Education Code section 49066, a pupil may receive a reduced grade or a failing grade by a teacher for any act of cheating in the teacher's classroom. Before a reduced grade or a failing grade is given by the teacher, the parent or legal guardian will be given a reasonable opportunity to meet with the teacher on the matter. A determination of any disciplinary action by the Superintendent shall be made within the discretion of the Superintendent. Any appeal to the Board shall be limited, and it must be made in writing and received in the Superintendent's Office within ten (10) days of the date of the Superintendent's determination. The appeal must contain the specific reason(s) for the appeal. The review by the Board is limited to an investigation of whether the determination by the Superintendent violated this Board Policy or any other Board Policy, or whether the determination by the Superintendent is without merit. Only the Board may order a pupil expelled.

Any appeal of a reduced or a failing grade shall be consistent with Education Code section 49066. Any appeal shall be directly to the Superintendent, and it must be made in writing and received in the Superintendent's Office within ten (10) days of the date of the determination by the teacher of the reduced or failing grade. The appeal must contain the specific reason(s) for the appeal.

Legal reference:

Education Code sections 35160,35160.1,35161.35181,35291,48900, 48908,49066,49067

Date Adopted By The Governing Board: February 7, 2013