

1. Rationale

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is committed to Character Education as exemplified by our board's Commit to Character attributes and Strategic Priorities.

The SCDSB values the diversity of students and is committed to supporting the achievement and well-being of all students while fostering a safe, inclusive, and accepting learning environment.

2. Policy

It is the policy of the SCDSB to ensure that learning environments promote honesty and recognize the work of others; cheating and plagiarizing will not be accepted.

3. Definitions

3.1 Honesty is behaving in a sincere, trustworthy, and truthful manner.

3.2 Cheating is to act dishonestly or unfairly in order to gain an advantage. Some common examples of cheating include, but are not limited to, copying answers or ideas from others, allowing others to copy, communicating with others during assessments or evaluations, or tampering with record entries, report cards, or transcripts.

3.3 Plagiarism is an act of dishonesty. Plagiarism is the use or close imitation of the words, data, graphics, photos, music, and/or thoughts of another, without attribution, in order to represent them as one's own original work, including student-work generated through the use of technology (Artificial Intelligence).

4. Guidelines

4.1 Principals will work with educators to communicate what constitutes cheating and plagiarism to both students and parents/guardians using a variety of methods (e.g., newsletters, websites, student handbooks, course outlines).

4.2 Principals will ensure that educators embed instructional strategies, including explicit teaching of digital citizenship, into their practice to develop and promote honesty, citizenship, and the recognition of the work of others.

4.3 Consequences for cheating and plagiarism will be based on four factors: the grade level of the student, the maturity of the student, the number and frequency of the incidents, and individual mitigating circumstances.

4.4 A variety of plagiarism identification methods may be used by schools.

4.5 To address freedom of information and protection of privacy, all schools electing to use third party plagiarism detection software must adhere to Administrative

Page 2

Procedures Memorandum (APM) 1350 – Information and Computing Technology and Internet Appropriate Use Guidelines for Employees, with emphasis on section 8 which outlines the use of Third Party Applications.

5. Administrative Procedures

The Director of Education is authorized to provide the administrative procedures necessary to implement this policy.

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