



STAR ACADEMY BOSTON

POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM PREVENTION

Academic Year 2026-2027

Applies to	All students, faculty, and staff of Star Academy Boston
Read with	Student and Family Handbook 2026-2027, Part II; Faculty and Staff Handbook 2026-2027, Part IX; Code of Conduct 2026-2027
Precedence	The Faculty and Staff Handbook and the Student and Family Handbook govern in the event of a conflict, except where this Policy states a stricter standard

1. INTRODUCTION

Star Academy Boston is committed to the principles of academic integrity and intellectual honesty. At the core of academic integrity is the expectation that students present work that is truly their own and appropriately acknowledge the contributions of others. That principle is vital to learning, to the advancement of knowledge, to respect for fellow scholars, and to the reputation of the School.

Artificial intelligence offers real opportunities for learning and research, and also presents challenges for academic integrity. This Policy therefore also sets out the acceptable and unacceptable uses of artificial intelligence in academic work. The School's position is that artificial intelligence may support a student's thinking but may not replace it: the substance of academic work, being the ideas, the reasoning, and the expression, must originate with the student.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

The School maintains a zero-tolerance approach to academic dishonesty in any form. This Policy applies to all students, faculty, and staff, so that academic integrity is preserved fairly and consistently. The School's commitment extends to:

1. Educating and supporting students. The School educates students about what academic integrity and academic dishonesty mean, about the importance of demonstrating their own effort, and about the



value of original work, and provides the resources and support needed to develop the skills of academic success, including proper citation.

2. Promoting the ethical use of technology. Students are encouraged to use digital tools as an aid to learning, and not as a means of circumventing original and critical thinking.
3. Ensuring fairness and transparency. Every case of suspected academic dishonesty is handled with due process, including clear procedures for investigation and an opportunity for the student to respond.
4. Implementing appropriate consequences. Violations result in the responses set out in this Policy and in the Student and Family Handbook.
5. Continual review. This Policy is reviewed and updated so that it remains effective and relevant.

3. CHEATING

Cheating is any attempt to gain an unfair academic advantage. It takes several forms, each of which undermines the educational process.

- Unauthorized collaboration: working with others on work set for individual completion.
- Exam misconduct: using prohibited materials or devices during an assessment, or copying from another student.
- Fabrication: inventing or falsifying data, research, or citations.
- Impersonation: having another person complete work or sit an assessment on your behalf.
- Unauthorized aid: using a resource or assistance the teacher has not permitted.

Cheating is not confined to these actions; it includes any attempt to circumvent the process of academic evaluation dishonestly.

4. PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is using another person's work, ideas, expression, or intellectual property without proper attribution, so as to imply that it is your own. It may be intentional or unintentional. Its principal forms are:

- Direct plagiarism: copying text verbatim from a source without citation and quotation marks.
- Paraphrasing plagiarism: rephrasing another person's work without acknowledging the original source.
- Source-based plagiarism: misrepresenting the content or intent of your sources, including citing sources not used.
- Self-plagiarism: resubmitting your own previous work, in whole or in substantial part, without permission or acknowledgment.
- Mosaic plagiarism: assembling text from multiple sources into a new whole without proper acknowledgment.
- Accidental plagiarism: failing to cite adequately through negligence, misunderstanding, or oversight.



Plagiarism applies not only to written text but also to ideas, data, software, images, art, language, and other intellectual property.

5. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Unless a teacher states otherwise in the course syllabus or for a particular assignment, the following applies.

5.1 Permitted

- Using artificial intelligence to explain a concept the student does not understand, or to generate practice questions.
- Using it to locate sources and background material, which the student then reads and evaluates independently.
- Using it to check grammar, spelling, and sentence structure in work the student has written.
- Using it to brainstorm at the outset of a project, where the ideas are then developed by the student.

5.2 Not permitted

- Submitting artificial-intelligence-generated text, code, solutions, or images as the student's own work, in whole or in part.
- Using artificial intelligence during a test, quiz, or any assessment, unless expressly permitted.
- Using it to generate or alter data, results, citations, or sources.
- Using it to rewrite work so that it imitates the student's own voice, or to disguise the use of artificial intelligence.
- Using it to complete work on behalf of another student.

5.3 Declaring permitted use

Where a student has used artificial intelligence in a permitted way, the student includes a brief note at the end of the work stating which tool was used and for what purpose, for example: "I used an AI assistant to check grammar in the final draft." A student who is unsure whether a particular use is permitted should ask the teacher before submitting. Asking is always acceptable; assuming is not.

Undeclared use in a permitted category is treated as a lapse in citation on a first occasion and addressed educationally. Use in a prohibited category is treated as academic dishonesty, on the same basis as plagiarism.

6. HOW THE SCHOOL REVIEWS WORK

Teachers review student work for academic integrity as part of ordinary assessment. This may include the use of Turnitin, which is integrated into the School Portal, comparison with a student's previous work, discussion of the origins and content of a submission, spot-checking of answers, or asking a student to complete comparable work under supervision.



No finding of academic dishonesty rests on the output of a detection tool alone. Detection of artificial-intelligence use is unreliable, and a teacher's judgment, informed by discussion with the student, governs.

7. PROCEDURE

6. Review. The teacher's assessment of student work includes a review for possible breaches of academic integrity.
7. Informal discussion. Where a breach is suspected, the teacher discusses the matter with the student to understand their perspective.
8. Notification. Where the teacher determines that a breach has occurred, the teacher notifies the student of the finding.
9. Opportunity to respond. The student is given the chance to explain or respond, so that their account and any extenuating circumstances are considered.
10. Record. The teacher records the breach as a conduct violation on the School Portal, which notifies parents and guardians.
11. Appeal. The student may appeal, as set out in Section 9.
12. Educational response. The administration considers the teacher's findings and any appeal information and determines the appropriate response under Section 8.
13. Record keeping and confidentiality. A record of the incident is maintained, focusing on the learning outcome rather than on punishment, and the process is conducted confidentially.
14. Ongoing support. Support and resources are provided to the student to prevent further incidents and to build a better understanding of academic integrity.

8. CONSEQUENCES

First offense. The primary response is educational. The student may be asked to redo the assignment with guidance on citation and research practice, and a meeting is arranged to discuss the importance of academic integrity. Parents and guardians are informed.

Second offense. The consequences increase: a reduction in the grade for the assignment, a formal warning, and a required session on academic integrity. Parents and guardians remain involved, and a meeting with the administration may be arranged.

Repeated offenses. Repeated instances may lead to a failing grade for the course, suspension, or other action appropriate to the student's grade level and consistent with the Student and Family Handbook. A formal record is maintained and may affect the student's academic record.

Individual circumstances, including the student's age, intent, and understanding of the rules, are taken into account throughout. Academic dishonesty is a Tier II infraction under the Student and Family Handbook, and repeated or extreme instances may be treated as Tier III.



Where a college inquires about disciplinary matters, students are expected to respond truthfully and directly. Where the School learns that a student failed to contact a college or gave a dishonest answer about discipline, the School will promptly notify the college.

9. APPEAL

A student may appeal a finding of academic dishonesty by writing to the Head of Academic Affairs and Global Development, stating the grounds for the appeal and including any information not considered in the original decision.

The Head of Academic Affairs and Global Development reviews the original report, the student's submission, and any further evidence, may consult the teacher and other faculty, and informs the student in writing of the outcome. Where the appeal is upheld, the grade is revised and the record removed as appropriate.

A student or family who does not accept the outcome may write to the Director responsible for academic matters within ten school days of being notified. That decision is final; the School does not provide review beyond the Directors. Throughout the appeal, confidentiality is maintained and the review is conducted impartially.

10. ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS

This Policy is adopted by the Directors and is effective for the 2026-2027 academic year and thereafter, unless amended or replaced by the School. It supersedes and replaces in full the School's prior Policy on Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Prevention and any earlier statement of the matters it covers.

Approved by the Directors of Star Academy Boston, Larisa Bankovsky and Margarita Druker.
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