

# Plagiarism Policy

## Intention

One of DECA's Guiding Principles is to prepare our members to be Professionally Responsible. "DECA members are poised professionals with ethics, integrity and high standards." Ethical behavior is a large part of responsible citizenship; therefore, we believe it is important to have a clear policy concerning plagiarism and other forms of academic cheating.

## Definitions

Cheating by students is defined as attempting to take credit for someone else's work, using unauthorized materials, or otherwise acting to deceive the evaluator in an assignment, project, or test.

### Intentional Plagiarism is defined as, but not limited to:

- Obvious, substantial, verbatim reproduction of information.
- Fabrication of sources, falsification of page numbers, or other deliberate mis-documentation.
- Submission of others' work as the students' own. This applies to un-cited paraphrasing of another's ideas as well as verbatim use of others' words. (Others' may refer to either scholarly sources, online "cribbed" essays, or the work of other students).

### Technical Plagiarism is defined as, but limited to:

- Poor paraphrasing, amounting to "translating" another's work
- Improper citation or documentation that misrepresents a source
- Insufficient citation of factual information not held to be common knowledge (common knowledge is defined as facts readily available from a variety of sources)
- Poor integration of direct quotations with the student's own writing.

## Determination of Plagiarism/Cheating

Parents and the School Principal must be informed immediately when a student is suspected of plagiarism or cheating. Through the use of TurnItIn.com and other search engines, teachers will, in most cases, be able to provide documented evidence of plagiarism. A committee of teachers shall be established to review, as needed, cases of plagiarism. The purpose of the committee will be to determine that evidence of plagiarism exists and which definition applies, not to apply penalties.

## Consequence

Evidence of plagiarism or cheating shall result in the student (and partner, if applicable) being disqualified from competition. No refunds will be given for disqualified dropped students.

## Disciplinary consequences

In addition to being disqualified, Michigan DECA will refer the student to the school principal where other actions could be taken as outlined in their school's code of conduct.

*The Ledyard (CT) Public School's Plagiarism Policy of 2008 was used as a basis for this policy.*