

Students

Breathalyzer Testing

The Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees supports the use of breathalyzers on campus or at any Academy sponsored/supported activities and events to deter the use of alcohol by students and to promote the health and safety of all students.

This policy provides the basic structure for the use of breathalyzers at The Academy to confirm alcohol consumption by students. Such instruments shall be used by The Woodstock Academy to:

1. Confirm a reasonable suspicion that a particular student has used or is under the influence of alcohol on campus or at a co-curricular Woodstock Academy-sponsored event; and/or
2. Systematically screen students attending co-curricular Woodstock Academy-sponsored activities or events (on or off school grounds) for possible alcohol use.

A breathalyzer is a device that detects and measures alcohol in expired air so as to determine the concentration of alcohol in a person's blood. Designated Academy personnel will be trained in the use of the breathalyzer test.

Testing of students using these devices will be conducted in a separate area, to the extent practicable, to maintain student privacy. Results from a breathalyzer will be maintained in a confidential manner to the extent practicable, and only released in accordance with Woodstock Academy policy and state and federal law.

Testing to Confirm Reasonable Suspicion of Alcohol Use

If there is reasonable suspicion that a student is under the influence of alcohol on school grounds or at a Woodstock Academy sponsored activity, the student shall be removed to a separate area for observation and questioning concerning alcohol consumption. The student will be informed as to how the breathalyzer operates and will be asked to breathe into the device. Testing will be conducted by trained personnel, in a separate area whenever possible, to maintain student privacy. Any student who tests positive will be asked to submit to a second breathalyzer test. If the student tests positive to the second test, The Woodstock Academy will contact his/her parents/guardians. If necessary, the student will be brought to the health office for medical treatment during school hours and emergency medical protocols shall be followed. The Woodstock Academy personnel shall seek emergency medical treatment (911), if necessary.

If the student tests positive on either test, or if the student refuses to take the test when there is reasonable suspicion of alcohol use, the student may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with The Woodstock Academy policies and procedures.

Reasonable suspicion shall include, but may not be limited to, any of the following:

1. Observed use or possession of alcohol;
2. Alcohol odor or the presence of an alcohol container;
3. Slurred speech, unsteady gait, lack of coordination, bloodshot or glazed eyes; or
4. Marked changes in personal or physical behavior not attributable to other factors.

Co-Curricular Woodstock Academy-Sponsored Activity or Event (On or Off School Grounds)

The Board of Trustees allows for the use of breathalyzers in connection with students' participation in co-curricular Woodstock Academy-sponsored activities and events (on or off school grounds). The Woodstock Academy personnel do not need to have reasonable suspicion of alcohol use in order to use breathalyzer tests at these activities and events.

Students will be notified prior to the activity or event if suspicionless testing will occur. Students will be notified through such means as the calendar/handbook, written notices, Academy announcements (oral and written), or other similar notifications.

Students may be denied entry and/or removed from the event or activity for either refusing to submit to such testing or for testing positive for alcohol use.

When breathalyzers will be used at an Academy-sponsored activity or event (on or off school grounds) (i.e. dances, proms, etc.), such devices shall be administered as follows:

1. The Woodstock Academy Associate Head of School or his/her designee will determine if such screening will be required of each student participating in the activity or event or if this screening will be done randomly.
 - a. If each student is to be tested, all students participating in the activity or event will be asked to submit to a breathalyzer test.
 - b. If testing is to be done randomly, the Associate Head of School or his/her designee will determine the method for random testing prior to the activity or event and communicate the method to those personnel who will administer the test.
2. Students will be asked to breathe into the device. If the breathalyzer test detects alcohol, the student shall be removed to a separate area for observation and questioning concerning alcohol consumption. The student will be asked to submit to a second breathalyzer test to confirm the presence of alcohol.
3. Should the student test positive after the second test, The Woodstock Academy personnel will contact the student's parents/guardians and the student shall be removed/denied entry to the activity or event and may face additional disciplinary actions.
4. Any student who refuses to submit to the breathalyzer test, may be excluded or removed from the activity or event and may face additional disciplinary actions.
5. The Woodstock Academy retains the right to contact state police and/or local law enforcement officials at any time, as deemed appropriate, consistent with The Woodstock Academy practice and policy.

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The Woodstock Academy
Woodstock, Connecticut