

Students

Search and Seizure

The Board of Trustees seeks to ensure an environment that protects the health, safety and welfare of students and staff. To assist the Board in attaining these goals, The Academy Administration and officials may, subject to the requirements below, search a student's person and property, including property assigned by The Academy for the student's use. Such searches may be conducted at any time on Academy owned and/or operated property, at any Academy-sponsored activity or anytime when the student is under the jurisdiction of The Academy.

All searches for evidence of a violation shall be subject to the following requirements:

1. The Academy official shall have individualized, "reasonable suspicion" to believe evidence of a violation of law, Board policy, administrative regulation or school rule is present in a particular place;
2. The search shall be "reasonable in scope." That are the measures used are reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age, sex, maturity of the student and nature of the infraction.
3. District officials may also search when they have reasonable information that emergency/dangerous circumstances exist.

Property Assigned by The Academy for the Student's Use

The Academy may assign property for the students to use, such as a dorm room, an electronic device, a desk, and a locker. The right to search/inspect student assigned property may be exercised by Academy officials to safeguard students, their property and school property with reasonable care for the Fourth Amendment rights of students.

The exercise of the right to inspect also requires protection of each student's personal privacy and protection from coercion.

An authorized Academy administrator may search a student's assigned property under three (3) conditions:

1. There is reason to believe that the student's assigned property contains the probable presence of contraband material.
2. The probable presence of contraband material poses a serious threat to the maintenance of discipline, order, safety and health in The Academy.
3. The student(s) have been informed in advance through the student handbook that Academy Board policy allows assigned property to be inspected if the administration has reason to believe that materials injurious to the best interests of students and The Academy are contained therein.

Use of drug-detection dogs and metal detectors, or similar detective devices may be used only on Academy owned and/or operated property, at any Academy-sponsored activity or anytime when the student is under the jurisdiction of The Academy with the express authorization of the Head of School.

The Academy officials may seize any item which is evidence of a violation of law, Board policy, administrative regulation or school rule, or which the possession or use of is prohibited by such law, policy, regulation or rule.

Student Search

A student may be searched if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of The Academy. The scope of the search must be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and the nature of the infraction.

Students may be searched by law enforcement officials on Academy owned and/or operated property, at any Academy-sponsored activity or anytime when the student is under the jurisdiction of The Academy upon the request of the law enforcement official. Such requests ordinarily, shall be based on warrant. The Associate Head of School or his/her designee will attempt to notify the student's parents/guardians in advance and will be present for all such searches.

The Academy authorities shall not conduct strip searches. All searches by the Associate Head of School or his/her designee shall be carried out in the presence of another adult witness.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-221 Boards of Education to prescribe rules
New Jersey v. T.L.O., 469 US 325; 105 S.Ct. 733

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The Woodstock Academy

Woodstock, Connecticut