	Salt Lake Arts Academy	Version 1
	Policy Title: Search & Seizure Policy	Effective Date: 2.24.2025

Salt Lake Arts Academy (SLArts) follows the guidelines set forth in R277-615.

School officials are charged by the Utah State Legislature and the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) with the responsibility of safeguarding the safety and well being of students in their care. Fulfillment of these duties may conflict with a student's right to and need of privacy. The interest of individual students in securing personal privacy must be balanced against the interest of society in protecting students against disruptive or illegal conduct by other students.

In order to maintain that responsibility, school officials of SLArts may search school property, such as lockers used by students, or the person or property, including backpacks, purses, belongings, electronic devices, and vehicles of students, in accordance with this following policy.

Student Consent

If SLArts does not have reasonable cause to search a student or his property, SLArts may search with the student's free and voluntary consent. However, coercion, whether expressed or implied, invalidates the apparent consent.

In addition to searches outlined in this policy, a school official may conduct a search of a student, a student's effects or other property controlled by a student if the student voluntarily gives consent to the search.

Search of Student or Student Effects

A search shall be conducted or directed by a school official.

A school official may conduct a search of a student or a student’s effects when:

- the official has reasonable grounds to believe that the search will turn up evidence of a violation of the law or of school rules;
- the measures taken to conduct the search are reasonably related to the objectives of the search and are not excessively intrusive in light of

the circumstances, including the student's age and sex, and the nature of the infraction; and
- the measures taken to conduct the search include those taken to compel a student's compliance with the school official's requests.

Search of School Property

While lockers, desks, and other storage areas are provided to students by SLArts, SLArts retains control and access to all lockers, desks, and other storage areas. These areas are assigned to students for their use on the condition that they will be used in a manner consistent with the law and school rules.

School officials may conduct inspection of these areas at any time, with or without the student present, in order to fulfill their responsibility of maintaining proper control and management of the school.

A school official may inspect the contents of these areas under the standards for conducting a search as specified in this policy.

These areas are assigned to students for use on the condition that they will be used in a manner consistent with the law and SLArts rules and policies.

Searches of Students

The school official shall conduct the search with another employee as a witness.

A school official of the same gender as the subject student shall conduct searches of the student.

Highly intrusive invasions of a student's privacy, such as searches of the student's person or strip searches, shall be conducted only if individualized reasonable cause exists to believe that there is a legitimate safety concern due to a student’s possession of weapons or drugs. These searches must be

designed to be minimally intrusive, taking into account the item for which the search is conducted.
If a partial strip search is being conducted for anything other than a dangerous weapon requiring immediate protection of life, law enforcement shall conduct said search.

Strip searches shall be conducted only by law enforcement personnel with the appropriate school official's knowledge.

Law Enforcement Involvement
Law enforcement may be contacted or called in at the discretion of the school official.

Where school officials initiate a search and law enforcement involvement is minimal, the reasonableness standard is applicable.
The ordinary warrant requirement and probable cause standard will apply where "outside" law enforcement officers initiate, or are predominantly involved in, a school search of a student or student property for police investigative purposes.

Records of a Search
The school official conducting the search shall be responsible for keeping a written record of the student search, including:

- the reason(s) for the search:
- information received that established reasonable suspicion to perform the search;
- the name of the informant if any;
- the persons present when the search was conducted;
- any substances or objects found;
- and any action taken.

Failure to Comply
Disciplinary procedures may be brought against a student who fails to comply with the reasonable requests of a school official.

The fruits of a search conducted under this policy may be:

- turned over to the police for inspection;
- used in a judicial proceeding, including photographed; or
- retained by a school official for use in a school disciplinary proceeding.