

Hawthorn Academy
Policy: Background Check Policy
Adopted: May 11, 2016



Policy

The purpose of this policy is to protect the safety, health and security of Hawthorn Academy (the "School") students, employees, and property.

The School will comply with the provisions of Utah Code § 53A-15-1503 and Utah Administrative Code R277-516 regarding employee background checks. In order to protect the health and safety of all students and protect the property of the School, the School requires (a) all Board members, (b) all potential employees and (c) any volunteers who will be given significant unsupervised access to a student in connection with the volunteer's assignment to submit to a criminal background check and ongoing monitoring as a condition for employment or appointment.

The Lead Director will establish administrative procedures consistent with this policy and applicable law.

Signature:

Heidi Scott 5/11/16
Heidi Scott, Board President Date

Administrative Procedures Background Check Procedures

These procedures are established pursuant to the Background Check Policy established by the School's Board of Directors.

Individuals Subject to Background Checks

The School requires that the following individuals submit to a criminal background check and ongoing monitoring as provided in Utah Code § 53A-15-1503 as a condition for employment or appointment: (a) each new non-USOE-licensed employee; (b) each volunteer who will be given significant unsupervised access to a student in connection with the volunteer's assignment; (c) each employee of a staffing service who works at the School; and (d) each Board Member.

Additionally, each new employee who is licensed by the Utah State Office of Education ("USOE") must obtain a background check and submit to ongoing monitoring as required in connection with USOE's licensure requirements.

By September 1, 2018, the School will collect the information described below from individual who were employed by the School prior to July 1, 2015, and with whom the School maintains an authorizing relationship and submit that information to the Utah Bureau of Criminal Identification for ongoing monitoring.

Conducting the Background Check

Any person submitting to a background check for the School will sign a waiver notifying the individuals (a) that a criminal background check will be conducted, (b) who will see the information received as a result of the background check, and (c) how that information will be used.

The School will collect the following from an individual required to submit to a background check for the School:

- (a) personal identifying information, including but not limited to:
 - (i) current name, former names, nicknames, and aliases;
 - (ii) date of birth,
 - (iii) address,
 - (iv) telephone number,
 - (v) driver license number or other government-issued identification number,
 - (vi) social security number, and
 - (vii) fingerprints;
- (b) a fee as set forth below;
- (c) consent and waiver on a form specified by the School for the background check acknowledging that their fingerprints are being registered for ongoing monitoring by the School.

The School will submit such individuals' personal identifying information, including fingerprints, to the Utah Bureau of Criminal Identification for an initial background check and ongoing monitoring (if the results of the initial criminal background check do not contain disqualifying criminal history information as determined by the School).

Ongoing Monitoring

The School will request that the fingerprints taken for the purpose of conducting criminal background checks be registered with any rap back system maintained to provide ongoing status notifications to the School of any criminal history reported on individuals whose fingerprints are registered in the system.

Payment of Fee for Background Check

Applicants for employment, including substitutes, shall be required to pay the designated costs of background checks subject to the provisions of Utah Code Ann. § 53A-15-1503(2).

The School shall pay the cost of the background check for current non-licensed employees and volunteers of the School.

The School will not pay the cost of fingerprinting for School employees or volunteers.

Background Check Evaluation

When making decisions regarding employment or appointment based on the information received from a criminal background check, the School will consider:

- (a) any convictions, including pleas in abeyance;
- (b) any matters involving a felony; and
- (c) any matters involving an alleged:
 - (i) sexual offense;
 - (ii) class A misdemeanor drug offense;
 - (iii) offense against the person under Title 76, Chapter 5, Offenses Against the Person;
 - (iv) class A misdemeanor property offense that is alleged to have occurred within the previous three years; and
 - (v) any other type of criminal offense, if more than one occurrence of the same type of offense is alleged to have occurred within the previous eight years.

Only those convictions which are job-related for the employee, applicant, or volunteer will be considered by the School.

Opportunity to Respond to Background Check

The School will provide an individual an opportunity to review and respond to any criminal history information received as a result of submitting for a criminal background check or through ongoing monitoring.

If a person is denied employment or appointment or is dismissed from employment or appointment because of information obtained through a criminal background check or ongoing monitoring, the person may request a review of the information received and the reasons for the disqualification and shall be provided written notice of the reasons for denial or dismissal and of the individual's right to request a review of the disqualification.

Confidentiality

Information received by the School as a result of a background check will only be (a) available to individuals involved in the hiring or background investigation process for that individual and (b) used for the purpose of assisting the School in making employment-related decisions. Any person who disseminates or uses any such information for any other purpose is subject to criminal penalties and civil liability as set forth in applicable law.

Privacy Risk Mitigation Strategy

The School will employ reasonable privacy risk mitigation strategies to ensure that the School only receives notifications for individuals with whom the School maintains an authorizing relationship. Specifically, upon (a) termination of an employee's employment with the School, (b) expiration of a Board Member's term without renewal, or (c) resignation of Board Member, the administration will ensure that the School's management company receives notification of the event. The School's management company will take any steps necessary to terminate ongoing monitoring for such individuals and will document the date on which such steps were taken. For volunteers, the School's management company will establish a schedule to review the volunteers registered for ongoing monitoring for the School, consult with School personnel to determine whether such individuals are still volunteering for the School, and terminate ongoing monitoring for individuals as appropriate.