

STUDENTS

Access to Student Social Networking Passwords & Websites

School authorities may require a student or his or her parent or guardian to provide a password or other related account information in order to gain access to the student's account or profile on a social networking website if school authorities have reasonable cause to believe that a student's account on a social networking website contains evidence that a student has violated a school disciplinary rule or procedure.

The following procedures will be followed prior to exercising the right to require password information:

1. Last Resort:
Passwords will only be required when school authorities have no other means of obtaining the evidence in question. In most cases, the victims, witnesses or complainants should be able to provide the evidence without the use of a search.
2. Search Guidelines:
If there is no other means by which to obtain the evidence and/or continue the investigation, the legal guidelines surrounding a legal search will be followed, including but not limited to the following:
 - a. There must be reasonable suspicion that a law or school rule has been broken.
 - b. The suspicion must be individualized and pertain to particular students, and not blanket an entire group of students.
 - c. There must be a specific piece of evidence that is being sought.
 - d. The search must end once the specific piece of evidence is found.
 - e. Two administrators will be present for the search.