



## WOODSTOCK ACADEMY AND OTHER PRIVATE ACADEMIES THAT SERVE AS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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### INCORPORATED OR ENDOWED ACADEMIES

Under state law, the State Board of Education (SBE) can approve a private, nonreligious, incorporated or endowed academy to act as its town's public high school. Towns sending their students there in lieu of hosting a public high school must pay the academy's tuition ([CGS § 10-34](#)).

### ISSUE

Identify and summarize the state laws that address the Woodstock Academy or any other private academy that serves as a public high school for its town.

### SUMMARY

The Woodstock Academy is one of three private academies, the others being the Gilbert School and the Norwich Free Academy, that serve as the public high school for the town where it is located. These academies are each under the control of a board of trustees, rather than an elected local board of education. The boards include representatives from the local board of education of the host town.

There are five state education laws that specifically mention the Woodstock Academy and seven laws that address incorporated or endowed academies, and therefore apply to the Woodstock Academy.

Generally, these laws (1) apply the same mandates and requirements on the academies that are placed on regular public schools and (2) make the academies eligible for various state grants. This report shows the relevant laws in two parts, the first lists the laws that name the Woodstock Academy specifically and the second lists the laws that address all academies acting as public high schools.



## ACADEMIES: TOWNS SERVED AND RELEVANT STATUTES

Table 1 shows each academy, the town where it is located, and the other towns each serves.

Table 1: Academies and the Towns They Serve

| <i>Academy</i>   | <i>Host Town</i> | <i>Other Towns Served</i>   |
|--|------------------|---|
| Woodstock Academy<br><a href="http://www.woodstockacademy.org/">http://www.woodstockacademy.org/</a> | Woodstock        | Eastford, Pomfret, Brooklyn, and Canterbury                                     |
| Gilbert School<br><a href="http://www.gilbertschool.org/">http://www.gilbertschool.org/</a>          | Winchester       | Hartland  |
| Norwich Free Academy<br><a href="http://www.nfaschool.org/">http://www.nfaschool.org/</a>            | Norwich          | Brooklyn, Bozrah, Canterbury, Franklin, Lisbon, Preston, Sprague, and Voluntown |

### ***Statutes That Mention Academies by Name***

There are five statutes that specifically include the Woodstock Academy and at least one of the other academies by name. Table 2 shows the statutory citation, the schools named, and the statutory provision (we did not include CGS § 10-261, an obsolete provision).

Table 2: Statutes that Specifically Include Woodstock Academy

| <i>Statutory Citation</i>   | <i>Schools Named</i>                 | <i>Subject</i>  |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| <a href="#">10-76o</a> (special education)                            | All three                            | Requires academies to provide the same special education services that are required of public schools   |
| <a href="#">10-262f</a> (education cost sharing definitions)          | Woodstock Academy and Gilbert School | Allows, in one of the definitions that is part of the education cost sharing formula, the town of Woodstock to include as part of its regular and current school expenditures the amount expended for current expenses that year by the Woodstock Academy endowment fund; allows the town of Winchester to do the same for its regular and current school expenditures regarding the amount expended that year by the Gilbert School endowment fund |
| <a href="#">10-282</a> & <a href="#">10-289</a> (school construction) | All three                            | Includes all three academies in the definition of “school building project,” thus making them eligible for school construction reimbursements if they qualify under the standard school construction rules  |

### ***Statutes that Address Endowed Academies***

Several statutes do not mention the academies by name, but refer to them as academies (1) approved by SBE under [CGS § 10-34](#) or (2) eligible for school construction grants (see Table 3).

**Table 3: Statutes that Include Endowed Academies.**

| <b>Statutory Citation</b>   | <b>Subject</b>  |
|---|---|
| <b><a href="#">10-4h</a> (telecommunications grants)</b>  | Makes endowed academies that meet school construction eligibility requirements eligible for school telecommunication grants (construction requirements include making the building available to the town for at least 10 years after the grant is made and at least 50% of the academy's board membership must be from boards of education of member communities) |
| <b><a href="#">10-215a</a> &amp; <a href="#">-215b</a> (participation in federal school nutrition programs)</b> | Makes endowed academies that participate in federal school nutrition programs eligible for state and federal funding  |
| <b><a href="#">10-215f</a> (certification that food meets nutritional standards)</b>                            | Requires endowed academies that participate in the National School Lunch Program to annually certify that the food served meets federal nutrition standards   |
| <b><a href="#">10-221p</a> (making nutritious food available to buy)</b>  | Requires endowed academies to sell nutritious and low-fat food at school during the school day  |
| <b><a href="#">10-221g</a> (sale of beverages at school)</b>  | Permits endowed academies to only sell drinks with no artificial sweeteners and, depending upon the type of beverage, limited or no added sugar, and limited fat  |
| <b><a href="#">10-262n</a> (school technology grants)</b>   | Requires towns participating in the grant program that also participate in an endowed academy to transfer a per student amount of the grant to the academy for each student it sends to the academy   |

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