

Use of Metal Detectors

Reasonable Suspicion

When the school administration has reasonable suspicion to believe that weapons are in the possession of an identified student, the administration is authorized to use a mobile metal detector to search the student. Any search of a student's person as a result of the activation of the detector will be conducted in private and in accordance with the policy on personal searches. Only school personnel who have been trained in the usage of metal detectors, law enforcement officers assigned to the school corporation, or school resource officers shall operate the metal detectors under the direction of the administration.

Administrative Search

In view of the escalating school violence, the potential presence of weapons in our schools, and the school corporation's duty to maintain a safe learning environment, the Board of School Trustees authorizes the use of metal detectors to check a student's person or personal effects. Only school personnel who have been trained in the usage of metal detectors, law enforcement officers assigned to the school corporation, or school resource officers shall operate the metal detectors under the direction of the administration.

School officials or law enforcement officers may conduct metal detector checks of groups of individuals if the checks are done in a minimally-intrusive, nondiscriminatory manner. Metal detector checks of groups of individuals may not be used to single out a particular individual or category of individuals.

If a school official or a law enforcement officer has reasonable suspicion to believe that a particular student is in possession of an illegal or unauthorized metal-containing object or weapon, he or she may conduct a metal detector check of the student's person and personal effects...

Notice of the Board policy and procedures on the use of metal detectors will be provided parents and students and posted on the websites of the school corporation and of each middle and high school.

The Superintendent shall develop procedures for implementing this policy. The metal detector checks will be done only in accordance with the provisions of the Board policy and procedures by school personnel or law enforcement officers under the supervision of the school administrator.

USE OF METAL DETECTORS – PROCEDURES

The following procedures for the use of metal detectors in the schools are developed pursuant to Board policy on the Use of Metal Detectors. The Superintendent may modify or expand these procedures in any manner consistent with the Board's policy.

A notice will be posted in a central location at each school stating that weapons are not permitted at school and that students or visitors may be required to submit to a metal detector check. In addition, the metal detector policy and these procedures will be included in the student handbooks for each school. Notice of the Board policy and procedures on the use of metal detectors will be sent to parents and students of each middle and high school on a regular basis throughout the school year. A notice must be provided at the beginning of school and during second semester of each school year. The superintendent will determine the specific dates when the notice will be sent out throughout the school year.

Metal Detector Random Checks

- A. A principal may decide to conduct a random metal detector check on all students before entering the school at the beginning of the school day, or he or she may select a group of students to be checked at random on a neutral, nondiscriminatory basis. The group selected for a random check may be a classroom(s), a bus(s), or any other group of students determined by the principal in accordance with these procedures and Board policy. Metal detector checks of groups of individuals may not be used to single out a particular individual or category of individuals
- B. Before conducting the metal detector checks, the participating administrator or law enforcement officer (“officer”) will explain the scanning process to students, emphasizing that the checks are intended to maintain safe schools.
- C. An administrator or officer will escort each student with his or her personal effects into a designated area to proceed with the metal detector check. An adult will closely observe students to make sure no objects are removed from pockets of personal effects.
- D. The administrator or officer will ask the student to remove all metal-containing objects from his or her clothing and personal effects. The administrator or officer will then scan the student without touching his or her body and scan the outside of the student’s personal effects. If the student refuses to cooperate, the administrator or officer may proceed with the check in the presence of another adult.
- E. If the metal detector is activated during the scanning of the student’s effects, the administrator or officer will ask the student to open the bag, purse, etc., and the officer will proceed to look for weapons. If the metal detector is activated during the scanning of

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the student's person, the student will be given a second opportunity to remove any metal-containing object from his person. A second scan will be conducted and if the metal detector is activated again, an Administrator or Officer of the same sex will conduct a pat-down search of the student's outer clothing in the area where the metal detector was activated. The pat-down search will be done in a private room or area and in the presence of an adult witness, of the same sex when feasible. If the Administrator or Officer feels an object on the student's person, the student will be given an opportunity to remove the object. If he or she refuses, the Administrator or Officer will remove the object from the student in the presence of an adult witness.

Metal Detector Checks of Individual Students

Before conducting a metal detector check of an individual student, the administrator or officer must have individualized reasonable suspicion that the student is in possession of an illegal or unauthorized metal-containing object or weapon. The provisions of the Board policy regarding personal searches and the use of metal detectors shall be followed under these circumstances.

If a properly conducted search yields a weapon or any other illegal material, it shall be turned over to the proper legal authorities for disposition.

Metal Detector Checks- Wheelchairs and Medical Implants and Devices

If a search is required for a person in a wheelchair, this screening will be conducted using the following guidelines:

- The metal detector screening should be conducted by an administrator or officer of the same gender in a private location. A witness will be present during this screening and the person being screened may be accompanied by a companion of his or her choosing.
- If the metal detector indicates metal on the person being screened, an opportunity for an explanation as to what the metal item is will be provided. If the person being screened refuses to disclose what is setting off the metal detector, a pat-down will occur in the area where a metal object was detected by an administrator or officer of the same gender. The person being screened should notify the screener before the pat-down begins of any difficulty raising his or her arms, remaining in the position required for a pat-down, or about any areas of the body that are painful when touched.

If a search is required for a person with any implanted or attached medical devices, such as an insulin pump, defibrillator, artificial joints, pacemakers, or hearing devices, please notify the administrator or officer immediately. This screening will be conducted in a separate location using the following guidelines:

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- If the person has any information related to the medical device that limits or prohibits the use of the handheld metal detector's use around certain areas on their person, it should be shared with the administrator or officer prior to the screening.

- *The pat-down, on areas that should not be checked with a metal detector, should be conducted by an administrator or officer of the same gender in a private location. A witness will be present during this pat-down.*

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