

policy

**BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
GREATER CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION**

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HAND-HELD METAL DETECTOR SEARCHES

Purpose

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 environment in all of the corporation's schools, the Board of School Trustees authorizes the use of hand-held metal detectors to check a student's person or personal effects.

Notice of this Board Policy will be sent to parents and students before the beginning of each school year. In addition, this Policy will be included in the student handbooks for each school.

Purchase and Training

The Superintendent may recommend the Board purchase hand-held metal detectors and schedule training and retraining for all personnel using metal detectors, and shall coordinate all metal detector tests in accordance with the requirements as outlined in the manufacturer's specifications and the procedures set out in this policy.

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 hand-held metal detector to search the student's person or personal effects.

Any search of the student's person or personal effects as a result of the activation of the detector will be conducted in private. The search shall be done by an administrator who is the same gender as the student. An additional adult witness shall be present during this search.

"Reasonable Suspicion" is defined as, when taking into consideration all of the circumstances, there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated either a law or rule(s) of the school.

No person shall be selected to be searched based solely upon his/her gender, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, physical appearance, manner of dress, or association with any particular group of persons.

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Screening Procedures

The Superintendent shall permit school administrators who have been trained in the usage of hand-held metal detectors to utilize such metal detectors under the discretion of the administration as a part of a comprehensive program of school security and safety of students, staff, parents and other visitors.

This policy is applicable to all students in all situations in which students are subject to school disciplinary rules, including on school grounds, immediately before or during school hours, or immediately after school hours, or at any other time when the school is being used by a school group; off school grounds at a school activity, function or event; or traveling to or from school or a school activity, function or event.

Before conducting a metal detector check of an individual student, the administrator must have individualized reasonable suspicion that the student is in possession of an illegal or unauthorized metal-containing object or weapon. The provisions of Board Policy 5771 Search and Seizure regarding personal searches shall be followed under these circumstances.

The scope of this search should be focused on detecting a weapon. The purpose of a hand-held metal detector search is to deter the possession of weapons, such as guns, knives, or other dangerous objects capable of inflicting bodily harm or injury.

Hand-held metal detector screenings are not to be used for the purpose of searching students suspected of violation of other school policies and rules. If during a hand-held metal detector search, contraband is incidentally discovered (e.g. tobacco or drugs), the possession of which is a violation of law or rule of the school, the items shall be confiscated and students will be subject to discipline.

Possession of a firearm, knife or other dangerous object shall subject students to disciplinary proceedings and/or arrest.

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

Avoiding or Refusing Detection Process

When a student attempts to avoid a hand-held metal detector screening, it shall be considered sufficient cause to immediately search the student's person and personal effects. Anyone refusing to submit to the hand-held metal detection screening will be considered grounds for disciplinary action.

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Law Enforcement Involvement

The school administrator will generally not use law enforcement officers to conduct hand-held metal detector screenings; however the school resource officer may assist or be present when school administrators conduct screenings. Law enforcement officer involvement in hand-held metal detector screening procedures will be limited to sharing information regarding threats made against students, administrators, teachers or the school that may require the school to conduct hand-held metal detector screenings; and calling upon law enforcement in the event that a weapon is discovered or suspected based on a hand-held metal detector activation.

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