

USE OF METAL DETECTORS

Code **JIHC-R** Issued **6/05**

In order to enhance security in the schools and prevent students and/or other individuals from bringing weapons into the schools, district officials are authorized to use metal detectors to conduct searches of students and other individuals according to the procedures outlined in this administrative rule. The superintendent or his/her designee will designate the schools which may utilize metal detectors.

The metal detectors may be used at such places as entrances to the buildings, classrooms, auditoriums and gymnasiums, or as individuals enter and exit district vehicles or school buses. They may also be used at extracurricular events hosted by the district, such as football or basketball games.

At the beginning of each school year, students who attend the designated schools and their parents/legal guardians will be notified that searches involving the use of metal detectors may take place during the school year, and that the entire search procedure is governed by written procedures which are available upon request.

Use of metal detectors

School officials may use metal detectors to conduct searches of students and individuals at the designated schools only when one of the following conditions exist.

- The administration of the school has reasonable suspicion, based on reliable information or personal observation, to believe that weapons or dangerous objects are in the possession of unidentified students or individuals.
- There is a pattern of weapons or dangerous objects found at the school, on school property, at a school function or in the vicinity of a school.
- Violence involving weapons have occurred at the school or on school property, at school functions or in the vicinity of a school.

Who may conduct a search with a metal detector

The superintendent or his/her designee will designate those individuals at each school who will be authorized to use metal detectors to conduct a search of students or individuals for possession of weapons. Both males and females will be designated. The designated individuals (operators) will be fully trained in accordance with the following procedures.

- Students will be notified via loudspeaker, assembly or by similar means, of metal detector use in the school from time to time during the school year. Students will be notified that they must submit to a search conducted in accordance with the written procedures. Students who fail to cooperate will be subject to discipline for insubordination. Students and individuals will be given an opportunity to remove harmless metal objects from their person before entering the school premises, as is customary where metal detectors are otherwise used, so as to avoid needless embarrassment. Students or individuals who may be unable to participate in a metal detector search because of a verified medical condition will so notify the building principal or his/her designee. Those students or individuals will be escorted into the office, where an alternative method of search may, pursuant to district policy, be conducted.
- From time to time during the school year, metal detector scanning posts may be set up inside classrooms or offices or at the appropriate entrances to the school. All students or individuals

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entering the school must be searched. In order to facilitate the process, the administration may limit the search by use of any random formula. For example, the administration may choose to search every fifth person in line. Particular students may not be selected for a search unless there is reasonable cause to believe the student possesses a weapon. Hand held scanning devices may only be used by a member of the same sex as the student being searched.

- The operators will explain the scanning process to each student or individual prior to a search, and will ask students or individuals to remove metal objects from their clothing. If a student's or individual's body activates the device, the operator will ask the student or individual to remove metal objects. A second scan will then be conducted. If the detector again indicates the presence of metal, the student or individual will again be asked to remove metal objects. A third scan will then be conducted. If the detector indicates the presence of metal for a third time, an operator, who must be the same sex as the student or individual, will escort the student or individual to a private area and again ask the student or individual to remove metal objects. If the student does not then produce a metal object, the operator may conduct a pat-down search. A witness will be present during all such searches. If the student or individual refuses to comply, the student's parent/legal guardian and/or the police will be called.
- The operators will also scan any bags or parcels carried by the student or individual. If a student's or individual's bag or parcel activates the scanning device, the operator will ask the student or individual to open the container for the limited purpose of determining whether a weapon is concealed therein.
- At no time will a strip search of a student or individual be conducted by an operator.
- All property removed from a student or individual as a result of the above procedures which may legitimately be brought onto school premises will be returned to the student or individual. Property removed from a student or individual, the possession of which violates school policy, will be confiscated, and the student will be disciplined in accordance with district policy. In cases where the student or individual may be in violation of state law, law enforcement will be notified.

Adopted 6/14/05