

Board of Trustees Douglas County School District

STUDENTS

Weapon Detection Screening Program

Program Purpose and Intent

As part of an overall plan to protect the health, welfare, safety, and lives of students, staff, and visitors to Douglas County schools, the district will implement a new safety program involving the use of walk-through metal detectors and handheld metal detectors to screen students, staff, and/or community members for weapons when attending school or events on Douglas County School District (DCSD) property.

This Weapon Detection Screening Program will utilize the Open Gate System manufactured by CEIA-USA or comparable product with the features described below. The Open Gate System utilizes new and highly advanced technology which is non-intrusive to students and visitors and their ingress to schools or school district property. Unlike conventional metal detectors found in airports and elsewhere, the Open Gate system does not require emptying of pockets or backpacks. It also allows individuals to pass through the metal detector in a single file line without stopping, which allows multiple students, staff, and visitors to pass through the metal detectors in a minimal amount of time. The technology is designed to alert only on guns, firearms, large tactical knives and other weapons capable of causing a mass casualty event but will not alert on commonly carried items like cell phones or car keys. The system is also completely portable, which will allow it to be used at multiple school sites or other district facilities, extracurricular activities, and district meetings and events to maximize the effectiveness of the program.

General Searches (Screenings)

An activation during the initial screening under the Open Gate System will result in a secondary screening by a staff member using a metal detector wand to identify the object generating the activation. This secondary screening could result in an administrative search of the individual's belongings, and in some cases, a search of the individuals themselves. Any necessary searches will be conducted per the procedures set forth below.

- Searches conducted pursuant to this program are administrative searches supported by the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *New Jersey v. T.L.O.*, 469 U.S. 325 (1985).
- Searches are designed to be conducted in a manner that results in the least amount of disruption to the educational program and in the least intrusive procedure to individuals as reasonably possible.
- This program and these procedures do not address or involve searches conducted by law enforcement unless weapons or contraband of a criminal nature are located. In such cases, law enforcement will assume control over the investigation and may elect to conduct their own searches based on law enforcement standards and the totality of circumstances.
- Screening and subsequent searches conducted pursuant to this program may occur at high schools, middle schools or school district sponsored events including but not limited to school dances, athletic events, school board meetings, etc., as determined by DCSD in its absolute discretion.
- Screening at elementary schools typically will not be conducted routinely, but the district, after consultation with law enforcement, may decide to conduct screening at an elementary school based on specific threats or other information indicating that a weapon may have been brought to the school. DCSD may also screen at special events, main office entrances, or other entrances where non-district

visitors to the campus might have access.

- Secondary screenings conducted with handheld metal detectors shall not involve touching the individual person.
- If, after the secondary screening, the circumstances (e.g., unexplained metal is detected) require physical contact with an individual person (e.g., patting of clothing to ascertain identity of metal), the physical contact search shall be conducted by someone of the same identified gender as the individual.

Site Selection Criteria

- Routine site selection for the metal detection screening will be determined by the designated DCSD School Safety Specialist after consultation with the DCSD Superintendent, School Resource Officers and individual school administrators. This program is designed to be a proactive deterrent to students bringing weapons to school, but could also be reactive to any threats to a school or post-incident response actions during any incident at a school involving weapons. An example of this reactive response would be using the metal detectors to have students pass through while law enforcement is clearing a school after an incident of school violence.

Event/School Arrival Screening

- Events selected by DCSD in its discretion shall be screened at points of entry. This will include perimeter entry doors used for ingress, or perimeter gates where applicable.
- Screening will be conducted by a trained team including school administrators and School Resource Officers.
- All individuals entering the event will be subject to initial screening using the Open Gate System weapon detectors described above.
- If the weapon detector activates, the individual shall be asked if they are in possession of any metal object in the area scanned. After determining that the object is not a weapon and is removable, staff will request that the individual remove the object and be re-scanned. If an activation reoccurs and the object cannot be removed, the operator shall visually confirm the individual's explanation (e.g., jewelry, belt, buckle, rivets on pants) or alternatively, lightly touch but not grab the area which is causing the repeated activation.
- If the weapon detector repeatedly activates, the individual shall be directed to a search area for further screening with a handheld detection wand and advised of the purpose of the secondary screening and the method in which the screening will be conducted.
- The individual shall be directed to place belongings (backpack, purse, binders, etc.) on a table in the search area. The belongings shall be physically searched only to the degree necessary to affirm that no weapons are concealed therein.
- If during a search an item is discovered that is a violation of District or school policy, regulation, or rule, the item may be confiscated, and the individual may be subject to disciplinary action and possible referral to law enforcement for prosecution.
- If the search results in negative findings, the individual will gather his/her belongings and provide his/her name to the staff member who conducted the search. Any student searched will be documented in the Student Information System.
- The individuals shall then be allowed to exit the search area.
- Any administrative searches of students or their personal property due to activation of the weapon detector during the screening process will be conducted by school staff under the reasonable suspicion standards set forth in the U.S. Supreme Court Case, *New Jersey v. T.L.O.* 469 U.S. 325 (1985).
- Strip searches or any search involving the movement or manipulation of clothing worn by a student are strictly prohibited.
- Parental notification for any student or student property searched as a result of activation during the weapon detection screening process will be made by school administration as soon as possible after the search. The method of notification will be determined by the site administration, but the circumstances

- leading to the search and method used during the search should be communicated to parents.
- If a student or student property is searched as a result of activation of the weapon detector screening process, the search will be conducted by an administrator^[HR1] or designee in the presence of the School Resource Officer.
 - Any weapons or contraband discovered on an individual or the individual's property during a search related to activation of the weapon detector during the screening process will be immediately turned over to the School Resource Officer or law enforcement personnel on scene. Law enforcement should then take control over any investigation or interview of the individual to ensure 5th Amendment (*Miranda*) Rights are not violated. Any disciplinary investigation conducted by school administration will be secondary to the criminal investigation due to immediate safety concerns.
 - If a student is taken into custody based on contraband discovered during a search based on activation of the weapon detector during a screening, law enforcement will determine when and by whom parent notification is made.
 - If a firearm is discovered during the screening or search process, school administration should place the school/event into "Stay Put" mode to secure the school or facility perimeter against unauthorized entry. The remaining students may then be screened through the weapon detector(s) and allowed controlled entry after being cleared. Law enforcement should be consulted on response actions. If the school is placed in Lockdown or Stay Put, it must remain in that condition until law enforcement clears it for normal operations to resume (NRS 388.2343).

Student/Staff/Visitor Cooperation

The purpose of the DCSD Weapon Detection Screening Program is to ensure a safe and healthy environment in schools. Since the primary goal of this program is student and staff safety, cooperation with the program is an expectation of students, staff, and visitors. Any individuals refusing to pass through the weapon detectors or attempting to avoid screening will be denied entry into the school or event unless they provide a legitimate explanation of their actions. Any individuals refusing to cooperate with the secondary screening or search process following an activation of the weapon detector will also be denied entry to the school or event. Follow up actions due to non-cooperation or non-compliance may include discipline, parental notification, and referral to law enforcement due to possible possession of weapons or contraband.

Extracurricular Activities

NRS 388.243 requires school districts to have emergency plans to address safety at extracurricular activities. DCSD will incorporate the use of the Weapon Detection Screening Program into extracurricular activities when appropriate, as determined in its sole discretion, including but not limited to school board meetings, sporting events, graduations, bus trips, or any other event where a large number of students, staff, or the public might be gathering. NRS 388.243 also requires school districts to plan for response to a mass casualty incident (MCI). This Weapon Detection Screening Program is a proactive effort to keep firearms and other weapons out of extracurricular activities and supports the obligations of DCSD to comply with this statute.

NRS 202.265 prohibits private persons from carrying firearms on school or school district property. Exceptions to this statute include on-duty or off-duty law enforcement personnel, or retired law enforcement personnel in possession of HR218 LEOSA concealed firearms permits^[HR2].

[NRS 202.265](#)
[NRS 388.243](#)

Adopted: May, 2022