

Metal Detector Usage

From WPUSD [Administrative Regulation 5145.12](#) and WPUSD [Board Policy 5145.12](#).

The Board finds that the presence of any illegal object (i.e., firearms, knives, or other prohibited items) in the schools threatens the district's ability to provide the safe and orderly learning environment to which district students and staff are entitled. The Board also finds that metal detector searches offer a reasonable means to keep illegal objects out of the schools and mitigate the fears of students and staff. These procedures are provided to ensure that searches conducted with a hand-held metal detector are lawful, unbiased, and respectful of the right of privacy. School officials shall exercise discretion and use good judgment when conducting searches.

School officials may search an individual student, the student's property, or district property under the student's control when there is a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover evidence that the student is violating the law, Board Policy, Administrative Regulation, or other rules of the district or the school. Reasonable suspicion shall be based on specific and objective facts that the search will produce evidence related to the alleged violation. The types of student property that may be searched by school officials include, but are not limited to, lockers, desks, purses, backpacks, and student vehicles parked on district property. Any search pursuant to these guidelines and procedures is designed to deter the bringing of weapons and other prohibited objects onto school grounds and to thereby reduce the potential for violent or illegal incidents on campus.

Any search of a student, the student's property, or district property under the student's control shall be limited in scope and designed to produce evidence related to the alleged violation. Factors to be considered by school officials when determining the scope of the search shall include the danger to the health or safety of students or staff, such as the possession of weapons, drugs, or other dangerous instruments, and whether the item(s) to be searched by school officials are reasonably related to the contraband to be found. In addition, school officials shall consider the intrusiveness of the search in light of the student's age, gender, and the nature of the alleged violation.

The following procedures shall be followed when conducting metal detector scans:

1. All administrators will be trained on the appropriate use of the hand-held metal detector. Training will be provided by the district's school resource officers (SRO's).
2. Only campus administrators will operate the hand-held metal detectors.
3. Only students are subject to searches with hand-held metal detectors.

4. All students entering the school may be subject to random metal detector searches. Random may be every third or fourth person, every other school bus, or every other hallway/classroom.
5. The administrator will ask the student to remove all metal objects from his/her person and place them in a receptacle. Do not reach into the pockets of the student to remove any object.
6. If the detector activates on the person, the student will be asked to remove any remaining metal objects on his/her person.
7. A second scan will be performed and if the detector activates again the student shall be escorted to a place out of public view for a more extensive search by the administrator.
8. Administrators are prohibited from selecting a particular student(s) search unless there's reasonable suspicion to believe that the student(s) are in possession of a weapon and/or other prohibited item(s). Student(s) of this category shall be escorted to a place out of public view for a more extensive search by the administrator.
9. If a student is subject to a more extensive search or other prohibited items found in their possession, the parent/guardian will be notified.
10. Any prohibited objects (i.e., firearms, knives) found during the search will be turned over to the police and disciplinary actions will be in accordance with Ed. Code and district policies.
11. The search shall be limited to the detection of the cause of the activation.
12. In the private area, an expanded search shall be conducted by a staff member of the same gender as the student, in the presence of another district employee.