



OPENGATE Weapons Detection FAQs

Updated 12-31-2024

Why did Davie County Schools choose weapons detectors for all schools?

Given the increased awareness around school safety nationwide, the district aims to take proactive measures to prevent any potential threats from entering the school environment. Weapons detectors serve as a preventive tool, adding an extra layer of security and peace of mind for families, staff, and students, showing a strong commitment to maintaining a safe learning environment.

Why did DCS choose weapons detectors versus metal detectors?

Our partnership with the Davie County Sheriff's Office allowed us to select OPENGATE as the best state-of-the-art weapon detection system for our schools. These detectors use advanced sensors and imaging technology to accurately distinguish between weapons and harmless metal objects, reducing false alarms and ensuring a higher level of detection accuracy. Additionally, they are easily portable to use in multiple locations and events.

Which schools will have the detectors?

The weapon detection systems will be in all elementary, middle and high schools.

How does the detection system work?

The system utilizes two towers that students and visitors walk through. If the towers turn green, no threat has been detected, and the individual passes through without stopping. A staff member will assist in monitoring the screening to instantly identify if a potential threat has been detected. If the system identifies a potential threat, the tower will alert with a red light and sound. That individual can then undergo secondary screening.

What happens if the alarm on the system sounds?

Staff will manage the detection system by utilizing their training in the system's implementation protocols. In most cases, the individual who sets the alarm off will go through a secondary screening where a staff member will examine the backpack and other belongings. A hand-held metal detector may be used.

Who will conduct the screenings?

Screenings will be conducted by DCS staff. Those operating the equipment and performing checks will be trained before implementation.

Who will be subject to the screening process? ‘

All students and visitors will be subject to the screening process.

Will students with disabilities also be screened?

Yes, all students will be screened unless it's determined that the student poses no threat to the school or in situations where the student is unable to participate in the screening due to their disability.

How long will this process take to get all students into the school each day?

It will vary from school to school. We encourage students to arrive on time, and many districts have stated that once implementation and training has completed, the entry time lessens each day.

Will the screenings occur at public events (athletics, concerts, plays, etc.)?

Yes. The units will be deployed and utilized at large school events on school grounds.

Will the detection system pick up knives?

Yes, knives are included in the list of potential weapons the system is capable of detecting.

Will the detection system pick up vapes?

Yes, the system is capable of detecting vapes and similar devices.

Is the detection system safe for people with an implanted or wearable medical device?

In keeping with FDA guidance on Electronic Article Surveillance (EAS) and walk-through metal detectors, it is recommended that visitors and system operators with implantable or wearable medical devices consult their device manufacturer or physician for information relating to their own specific device.

Will students not be allowed to carry certain items any more or have to take them out of their backpack?

Chromebooks, laptops, and the metal spines of large notebooks may trigger the detector due to their shape and metal density, which can resemble a potential weapon. More detailed guidelines and procedures for handling these items, and others, will be provided to students and families closer to implementation at each school.

Are these systems safe for long-term exposure, i.e. for children walking through daily or personnel staffing the system?

The detection system uses extremely low-frequency radio waves (ELF) - a non-ionizing sensing modality - in compliance with the Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineer's (IEEE) 2019 guidance for safe operation with the general public, which applies to regular/occupational as well as infrequent exposure.

Is facial recognition utilized in the detection system?

The technology does not use facial recognition. The system evaluates the items passing through it and, depending on the setting, will determine the possibility of an instrument or object that could potentially inflict harm to multiple individuals.

Is there a board policy governing student searches and metal detectors?

Yes. BOE [Policy 4342 – Student Searches](#)