MILLVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Weapon Detection System
Student, Staff, Parent & Community Implementation Guide
2026–2027 School Year

Implementation Dates

Millville Jr./Sr. High School — Wednesday, September 2, 2026
Millville Elementary School — Thursday, September 3, 2026

"STRONGER TOGETHER…SAFER TOGETHER."

The safety, security, and well-being of every student and employee remain among the highest priorities of the Millville Area School District.

Beginning September 2 and 3, 2026, the District will implement weapon detection systems at Millville Jr./Sr. High School and Millville Elementary School, respectively. These systems will complement the many safety and security measures already in place throughout the district and provide an additional layer of protection for our students, faculty, staff, families, and visitors.

The purpose of this initiative is straightforward:

To help prevent weapons, prohibited items, and other potentially dangerous contraband from entering our schools while maintaining a welcoming, respectful, and student-centered environment.

We recognize that implementing a new arrival procedure represents a change for students and families. District administrators and staff will work diligently to make the process safe, efficient, respectful, and as comfortable as possible for our students.

We appreciate the patience and cooperation of our students, parents, guardians, employees, and community as we introduce this additional safety measure.

WHERE WILL WEAPON DETECTORS BE LOCATED?

The District will use a combination of stationary and portable weapon detection systems.

Stationary Weapon Detectors:

Stationary weapon detectors will be located in the:

- Vestibule of the **Millville Jr./Sr. High School Principal's Office**
- Vestibule of the **Millville Elementary School Principal's Office**
- Vestibule of the **District Office**

These locations will provide controlled access points for students arriving outside the regular morning arrival period as well as visitors entering District facilities.

Portable Weapon Detectors

- Portable weapon detectors will be used during the regular morning student arrival period at both schools.

Millville Jr./Sr. High School

Student Screening Time: 7:35 a.m.–7:51 a.m.

- The portable weapon detection system will be located at the **entrance to the High School Gymnasium**.

Millville Elementary School

Student Screening Time: 7:40 a.m.–7:51 a.m.

- The portable weapon detection system will be located at the **Library Door entrance near the bus port**.

Elementary Specialized Transportation

- Students receiving **specialized transportation to the Elementary School** will enter through the weapon detector located in the **vestibule of the Elementary Principal's Office** rather than through the Library Door screening location.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY CHILD ARRIVES AFTER 7:51 A.M.?

Students arriving at either school **after 7:51 a.m.** will report through the appropriate main entrance and pass through the stationary weapon detector located in the vestibule of the respective Principal's Office.

Students should therefore continue to arrive at school on time and follow their school's established arrival procedures.

WHAT SHOULD STUDENTS EXPECT EACH MORNING?

Our goal is to establish a procedure that quickly becomes a normal and predictable part of the school day.

Students will be greeted and directed by District personnel through the screening area. The process is intended to be straightforward.

STEP 1 — Prepare to Enter

- As students approach the screening area, staff will provide directions and help maintain an orderly flow.
- Students should follow staff directions and have commonly identified items ready to be placed into a bin.

STEP 2 — Place Identified Personal Items in a Bin

- Before passing through the detector, students will be directed to place certain personal belongings in a plastic bin.
- Examples may include:
  - Cell phones
  - Keys
  - Glasses
  - Metal water bottles
  - Three-ring binders
  - Other items identified by staff that may unnecessarily activate the detection system

STEP 3 — District-Issued Devices

- Students will carry their **District-issued electronic device above their head** as they proceed through the weapon detection system, consistent with directions provided by staff.

STEP 4 — Proceed Through the Weapon Detector

- Students will walk normally through the weapon detection system.
- The systems will be calibrated and operated to identify weapons and contraband items while allowing students to move efficiently through the screening area.

STEP 5 — Retrieve Personal Belongings

- Students who proceed through the detector without an alarm or other concern will retrieve their belongings from the bin and continue into the building.
- Students may then proceed to their lockers, secure their belongings as appropriate, and report to homeroom or their designated location.

For the overwhelming majority of students, we anticipate that this will be the entire process.

WHAT ABOUT ATHLETIC BAGS?

- Students bringing athletic bags to school will be directed to place them in a **designated collection area** during the arrival process.
- The bags will then be transferred to and secured in a designated holding room.
- Students will be able to retrieve their athletic bags at the appropriate time at the conclusion of the school day or when they are otherwise excused from school in accordance with District procedures.
- Students should follow staff directions regarding athletic bags and should not attempt to take the bags to lockers, classrooms, or other areas unless specifically authorized.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE DETECTOR ACTIVATES?

An alarm does not automatically mean that a student possesses a prohibited item or has done something wrong.

Everyday objects may occasionally require additional screening. When an alert occurs, our goal will be to determine its cause **quickly, respectfully, and with as little disruption to the student as reasonably possible.**

If the system activates after the student has placed the identified personal belongings in a bin:

1. The student will be referred to the **School Police Officer (SPO) and/or Principal**.
2. The SPO and/or Principal may use a **handheld metal/weapon detection device** to help identify the source of the alert.
3. Once the source of the alert has been appropriately resolved, the student will be permitted to continue through the arrival process and report to class, provided no additional concern exists.

District personnel will make reasonable efforts to conduct additional screening in a manner that is **professional, respectful, discreet, and mindful of the student's dignity**.

The fact that a detector activates should not, by itself, be interpreted by students or others as evidence that a student has violated a school rule.

WHAT IF A STUDENT DOES NOT COOPERATE WITH THE SCREENING PROCESS?

- Student cooperation is essential to maintaining a safe and efficient arrival process.
- If a student declines or fails to cooperate with the established screening procedures, the student will not simply be permitted to bypass the safety process.
- The student will be directed to the **vestibule adjacent to the Principal's Office**, and the student's parent or guardian will be contacted.
- Administration will work with the student and parent/guardian to address the situation in accordance with District procedures and applicable policies.

Our preference will always be to resolve concerns calmly, respectfully, and with the student's safety and dignity in mind.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A PROHIBITED ITEM IS DISCOVERED?

- Students remain responsible for the items they bring onto school property.
- If a student is found in possession of an item prohibited by District policy or Pennsylvania law, the matter will be addressed in accordance with applicable:
    - Millville Area School District policies;
    - Student disciplinary procedures;

- Progressive disciplinary practices, when applicable; and
- Pennsylvania law.

- The implementation of weapon detection systems does not change existing expectations regarding prohibited items. It provides the District with an additional tool for enforcing those expectations and protecting the school community.

Students and families are strongly encouraged to regularly check backpacks, bags, jackets, vehicles, and other belongings to ensure that prohibited or inappropriate items are not inadvertently brought onto school property.

WHAT SHOULD VISITORS EXPECT?

- The District greatly values the involvement of parents, guardians, volunteers, and community members in our schools.
- The implementation of weapon detectors **does not change our desire to maintain welcoming schools**. It does establish an additional safety expectation for individuals entering our facilities.
- All visitors seeking access to the respective district buildings will be required to proceed through the stationary weapon detection system at the appropriate controlled entrance.
- Visitors should follow the directions of office and security personnel and should not bring weapons, prohibited items, or contraband onto District property.
- **Possession of a PA License to Carry Firearms (LTCF) does NOT permit/authorize a visitor to enter a district school or property with a concealed weapon.**

The same fundamental principle applies to everyone entering our schools: "Safety is a shared responsibility."

RESPECTING OUR STUDENTS THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS

The District understands that safety procedures are most effective when students feel safe **during the procedure itself**.

Accordingly, our employees will make reasonable efforts to ensure that screening interactions are:

- **Respectful** — Students will be treated courteously and professionally.
- **Discreet** — When additional screening is necessary, staff will seek to avoid drawing unnecessary or excessive attention to the student.
- **Efficient** — Staff will work to identify the source of an alert and return the student to the normal school day as quickly as reasonably possible.
- **Consistent** — Procedures will be applied according to established District expectations.
- **Student-Centered** — The safety, dignity, and well-being of students will remain central to the process.

An alert may occur for many reasons and should not become a source of embarrassment for a student.

EXTRA TIME DURING IMPLEMENTATION WILL BE NECESSITATED

- We ask for everyone's patience and understanding during the first several days of implementation.
- Any new procedure requires an adjustment period.
- Despite careful planning, weapon detection screening may initially:
    - **Slow the morning arrival process;**
    - **Create temporary lines or congestion;**
    - **Require staff to adjust student traffic patterns;**
    - **Result in students taking additional time to reach lockers or homerooms; or**
    - **Require procedural adjustments as we learn how to make the system operate most efficiently in our schools.**
- Administrators and staff will actively monitor arrival procedures and make reasonable adjustments designed to improve student flow while preserving safety.
- Our priority during this transition will be to **reduce congestion while maintaining the safety, dignity, and comfort of our students**.

Students should not feel pressured to rush through a safety procedure because they are concerned about reaching homeroom during the initial implementation period. Administration will account for reasonable delays attributable to the new screening process.

HOW CAN FAMILIES HELP?

- Parents and guardians can help make the process successful by talking with their children before implementation.
- We ask families to:
    - Encourage students to arrive at school on time.
    - Remind students to follow the directions of staff members at the screening locations.
    - Encourage students to organize their belongings so that commonly identified metal items can be removed efficiently.
    - Regularly review backpacks, athletic bags, jackets, and other belongings to ensure prohibited items are not accidentally brought to school.
    - Remind students that an alarm does **not** necessarily mean someone has done something wrong.
    - Encourage patience and respect for other students during the screening process.
    - Reinforce that students should never make jokes, comments, or statements about possessing weapons or dangerous items.

- Contact the appropriate building administration with questions or concerns rather than asking students to disregard or bypass screening procedures.

Your partnership will help students become comfortable with the new process much more quickly.

QUICK REFERENCE: MORNING ARRIVAL

MILLVILLE JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL

7:35–7:51 a.m.
→ Enter through the designated **High School Gymnasium entrance**
→ Proceed through the **portable weapon detector**
→ Follow staff directions
→ Retrieve personal items
→ Secure belongings and report to homeroom

After 7:51 a.m.
→ Enter through the designated main entrance
→ Proceed through the **stationary weapon detector in the Principal's Office vestibule**

MILLVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

7:40–7:51 a.m.
→ Enter through the **Library Door near the bus port**
→ Proceed through the **portable weapon detector**
→ Follow staff directions
→ Retrieve personal items
→ Proceed according to normal morning procedures

After 7:51 a.m.
→ Enter through the designated main entrance
→ Proceed through the **stationary weapon detector in the Principal's Office vestibule**

Students receiving specialized transportation:
→ Proceed through the **stationary weapon detector in the Elementary Principal's Office vestibule**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is the District implementing weapon detectors because of a specific threat?

- The purpose of this initiative is to **complement and strengthen the District's existing safety and security measures** and maintain the highest reasonable degree of physical safety and welfare for students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

Does an alarm mean my child is in trouble?

- **No.** An alarm simply means that District personnel need to determine what caused the system to activate. The student may be screened with a handheld detection device. If the matter is resolved and there is no additional concern, the student will proceed to class.

Will my child be embarrassed if the detector activates?

- District personnel will make reasonable efforts to conduct additional screening respectfully and discreetly and to avoid unnecessary or excessive attention.

Can a student simply decline to go through the detector?

- Students entering the school are expected to cooperate with established District safety procedures. A student who does not cooperate will be referred to administration, moved to the designated vestibule area, and a parent or guardian will be contacted.

Will visitors have to go through the detectors?

- **Yes.** Visitors seeking access to District buildings will be required to proceed through the stationary weapon detection system at the appropriate controlled entrance.

Will the process make my child late?

- There may be delays during the initial implementation period. District administration understands that these delays may occur and will work to ensure students are not unfairly disadvantaged by reasonable delays resulting from the screening process.

Why is the District doing this?

- For one reason above all others: **We want our students to be safe.**
- Weapon detection provides another layer within the District's broader approach to school safety and helps reduce the possibility that a weapon or other dangerous prohibited item will enter the learning environment.

SAFETY WITHOUT LOSING SIGHT OF WHO WE SERVE

- Our schools exist for our students.
- The addition of weapon detection systems is intended to enhance safety without changing the welcoming, supportive environment we strive to provide every day.
- We recognize that students may initially have questions or feel uncertain about a new security procedure. Our administrators, teachers, School Police Officer, and support staff will help students understand the process and become comfortable with the new routine.
- Our objective is not simply to move students through a detector.
- Our objective is to create an environment in which students can **learn, participate, build relationships, and grow with confidence that the adults responsible for their education are taking thoughtful and proactive steps to protect them.**
- We appreciate the patience, cooperation, and partnership of our students, parents, guardians, employees, and community members as we implement this additional layer of school safety.

Our MASD Commitment

- **Safe Schools.**
- **Respectful Procedures.**
- **Student Dignity.**
- **Shared Responsibility.**

STRONGER TOGETHER…QUAKER STRONG!