

2010

USE OF HANDHELD METAL DETECTORS ON SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY

UNAUTHORIZED WEAPONS AND OTHER DANGEROUS OBJECTS HAVE AN ADVERSE AND DISRUPTIVE EFFECT UPON THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS AND HAVE NO PLACE WITHIN THE EDUCATIONAL AND WORK ENVIRONMENTS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT. AS PART OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S OVERALL PLAN TO ENHANCE THE LEVEL OF PROTECTION OF THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF STUDENTS, EMPLOYEES AND VISITORS, AS WELL AS TO SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT OF THE CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT, METAL DETECTORS MAY BE RANDOMLY USED TO SCREEN PERSONS FOR FIREARMS AND OTHER DANGEROUS OBJECTS WHICH ARE PROHIBITED ON SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY BY APPLICABLE LAW AND SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES. HANDHELD METAL DETECTORS ARE DESIGNED TO DETECT ITEMS THAT CONTAIN METALLIC COMPONENTS. THIS POLICY SHALL APPLY TO ALL STUDENTS, EMPLOYEES, VISITORS, AND CONTRACTORS WHO DESIRE TO ENTER SCHOOL BOARD PROPERTY, AND TRESPASSERS WHO ARE PRESENT ON SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY. THE TERM "SCHOOL BOARD PROPERTY" SHALL INCLUDE ANY PROPERTY OWNED OR LEASED BY THE SCHOOL BOARD OR LICENSED FOR USE BY THE SCHOOL BOARD. THE TERM "METAL DETECTORS" REFERS TO HANDHELD METAL DETECTORS.

NOTHING IN THE RULES SET FORTH BELOW SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO LIMIT THE AUTHORITY OF SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS TO SEARCH ANY PERSON WHEN THERE IS A REASONABLE SUSPICION TO BELIEVE THAT SUCH PERSON IS IN POSSESSION OF A FIREARM OR OTHER DANGEROUS OR PROHIBITED OBJECT(S).

RULES:

- A. Notices will be posted in several prominent locations at each school district facility informing students, employees, visitors, contractors, and trespassers that they are subject to scanning by metal detectors for weapons and other dangerous objects prohibited by applicable law or School Board policies. The notice will include a statement that this type of screening may or may not be utilized at the discretion of the District and that no promise of safety is made.
- B. All persons selected for a random search shall be required to bring all their personal effects in their possession at the time they were selected (i.e., coat, purse, book bag or other similar articles) to the location where the screening will be performed. Alternatively, District personnel may opt to scan personal effects in the classroom.

- C. All selected persons to be searched shall be directed to remove all metal objects (including coins, etc.) from their pockets or belongings. All selected persons shall give their personal belongings, as described above, to a screening team member. These articles shall then be visually screened as required. The student or person shall then be scanned as well as their personal effects in their possession by a handheld metal detector. If the metal detector activates, the student or person will be subject to additional screening and/or further search by District personnel.
- D. Any person found to be in possession of a firearm or other dangerous weapon precluded on school district property by applicable law will be immediately referred to law enforcement and may be subject to arrest. The person will also be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to applicable law and Student Code of Conduct. In the event the search was conducted by a law enforcement officer, the officer may take enforcement action as authorized under Florida law.
- E. Students and employees who refuse to submit to a search consistent with these guidelines will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action by school administration. Students and employees who refuse will be considered to be grossly insubordinate and the appropriate consequence will be enforced for each as such. Refusal by the employee may lead to disciplinary action, up to and including termination. Other persons (visitors and contractors) who refuse to submit to a search consistent with this policy will be refused entry, escorted off campus, and may be referred to law enforcement.
- F. When a scanned student or employee is found to be in possession of articles prohibited by applicable law or School Board policy, the designated school district employee (or contracted personnel) conducting the scan will promptly notify the site administrator of the scan results to ensure appropriate disciplinary action is taken, as well as appropriate additional action(s) such as completing a Behavior Threat Assessment (BTA) for students.

Policy Custodian: Division of Safety, Security, & Emergency Preparedness

Authority: §1001.41(2); F.S. §1001.32(2); F.S.

History: 01/11/22

04/05/22