

USE OF METAL DETECTORS

The Terrebonne Parish School Board recognizes that school systems in Louisiana are faced with ever-increasing violence and the use of weapons on or adjacent to school campuses and after-school social functions. In this connection, it is generally believed that metal detectors could prove useful as a deterrent when utilized in a publicized random search program. Therefore, the purpose of these guidelines is to deter the bringing of weapons onto school grounds and to thereby reduce the potential for violent incidents. School districts have the authority to employ metal detectors. These guidelines are designed to ensure that searches conducted with a metal detector are lawful, unbiased, and respectful of the right of privacy. These guidelines shall be adhered to whenever searches are made with a metal detector.

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All teachers and/or administrators who have reasonable belief that a student is in possession of weapons or illegal drugs shall be authorized to search the person of said student. Any such action by teachers or administrators shall not be done maliciously or with the intention of embarrassing, harassing, or intimidating the student.

When metal detectors are used, the individuals to be searched shall be requested to remove all metal objects from their pockets along with any bags, parcels, or other containers being carried. If the detector activates on a person, the individual conducting the search shall request that any remaining metal objects be removed. If the detector activates again, the individual will be personally searched by an administrator/designee of the same sex. At least one witness, also of the same sex as the student, shall be present throughout the search.

DISCOVERY OF WEAPONS

Should an individual be found in possession of a weapon (i.e., firearms, knives, or other implements which can be used as weapons), the administrator shall notify the appropriate school official and/or law enforcement officer. The administrator and/or law enforcement officer shall take custody of all weapons and other prohibited objects.

NOTIFICATION

- (1) Signs shall be posted outside the entrances to School Board facilities in order to provide notice to all persons that they are subject to search as a condition of entry.
- (2) The parent or guardian of every student should be notified that searches will be conducted. This notice should be done in a way to ensure that the parents have received the notice.
- (3) The parent of the student will be notified if a weapon is found.
- (4) Parents should also be notified upon the decision to personally search a student when reasonable time and circumstances allow.

SEARCH PROCEDURE

School administrators who have been trained and certified in the use of metal detectors shall make searches as follows:

- (1) Search/detect students at random as they enter school, enter cafeteria, and leave school, search all or every third student.
- (2) Select at random students who arouse a reasonable suspicion that they are carrying a weapon or contraband. The reasonable suspicion actions which should be recognized should be taught/trained by law enforcement officers.
- (3) Select at random an entire class to search upon entering classroom and/or upon leaving classroom.

Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. Stat. Ann. §§17:416, 17:416.3; State v. Stein, 203 Kan. 638 456 P.2d (1969); Board minutes, 4-20-99.

