

EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PROPERTY

TITLE: USE OF METAL DETECTORS

ADOPTED: August 19, 2002

REVISED: November 21, 2022

<p>1. Purpose SC 510</p> <p>2. Definitions SC 1317.2 18 Pa. C.S. A. Sec. 912</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">709.1. USE OF METAL DETECTORS</p> <p>The Board recognizes the need to establish and maintain safety on school district property for all students, staff members, and visitors. No student, staff member or visitor should be subject to the inherent danger of a weapon or other dangerous contraband on school property, and it is the objective and direction of the Board that such dangers shall be minimized to the extent possible in keeping with the law. The use of metal detectors may, and it is intended to deter individuals from possessing weapons and other contraband and minimize the risk of such dangerous objects being found on district property and/or in district facilities. Random and/or daily metal detector screenings of individuals is expected to enhance safety and security procedures within the district. Therefore, all persons entering district property and/or facilities are subject to metal detector screening.</p> <p>ESASD Employees - includes any district employee and building-level administrators who has been trained in the use of metal detectors and the proper procedures authorized by this Policy.</p> <p>Weapon - shall have the meaning given by the Pennsylvania School Code and the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, each as amended, and shall include but not be limited to any knife, cutting instrument/tool, nunchak stick, firearm, shotgun, rifle and any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury.</p> <p>Metal detector - any handheld or walk-through metal detecting device.</p> <p>Metal detector screening - the use of metal detectors, walk-through units or handheld wand-style units, on persons and/or their belongings entering district property and/or facilities. All persons entering district property and/or facilities are subject to metal detection. Furthermore, all persons who cause the metal detector to alarm will be subject to a progressive search until the reason for the alarm is discovered.</p> <p>Random screenings - Random screenings are screenings that are not conducted on a regularly-scheduled basis, and are not necessitated by or premised upon a particular safety concerns or special events. The Superintendent or his/her designee or a building administrator may authorize metal detector screenings on randomly chosen</p>
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<p>3. Guidelines</p>	<p>days during a specified period of the day. ESASD Employees will conduct random screenings. Any combination of walk-through units and/or handheld wands may be utilized to conduct random screenings. Random metal detector screenings are an effective and necessary means of detecting and deterring the possession of weapons, and preventing its consequences, principally, student violence, from occurring on school premises.</p> <p>As-needed screenings - the Superintendent or his/her designee or a building administrator may authorize metal detector screenings on days chosen to address particular safety concerns such as (by way of example only and not limitation) recent violence in the area of the district or on days when special events are held. As-needed screenings shall not require any particularized suspicion or reason to suspect a specific individual's violation of the school's weapons policy or possession of contraband, and as-needed screenings shall be conducted in a random, nondiscriminatory manner. ESASD Employees will conduct such screenings. Any combination of walk-through units and/or handheld wands may be utilized to conduct as-needed screenings.</p> <p>Daily screenings - the Superintendent or his/her designee or a building administrator may authorize daily metal detector screenings. Daily screenings shall not require any particularized suspicion or reason to suspect a specific individual's violation of the school's weapons policy or possession of contraband, and the screenings shall be conducted in a random, nondiscriminatory manner. ESASD Employees (as defined previously) will conduct such screenings. Any combination of walk-through units and/or handheld wands may be utilized to conduct daily screenings.</p> <p>Nothing in the procedures set forth above shall limit the authority of ESASD Employees to search an individual through the use of a metal detector or otherwise, in accordance with law when there is reasonable suspicion that a particular individual may be in possession of an article which constitutes illegal behavior or a violation of any Board Policy. Response of a metal detector indicating potential possession of a weapon will and does, in and of itself and/or combined with other factors, provide reasonable suspicion necessary to perform a more specific search of an individual and/or his/her belongings.</p> <p>Screenings may be conducted on an entire group or by random selection. Random screenings must be performed in a manner so as to ensure that no unlawful discrimination occurs. By way of example and not limitation, screenings may be performed on every 2nd, or 5th, or 10th person, etc., and such a method shall not be considered discriminatory. In cases where, in the reasonable discretion of ESASD employees, a screening is likely to cause significant difficulty for persons with disabilities or other health impairments, ESASD employees may elect not to screen those persons, and such election shall not be considered discriminatory.</p> <p>A School Police Officer shall be present during all random screenings or where there</p>
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is reasonable suspicion that a weapon may be present.

Signs shall be posted notifying all persons that they, their belongings and any bags or parcels on their person are subject to unannounced electronic screenings for weapons or other unlawful contraband.

The person using the metal detector may be of either sex, regardless of the sex of the person subject to the electronic screening for weapons.

All property that may be legitimately brought onto school premises that is removed from an individual or his/her belongings as a result of the procedures set forth in this Policy, shall promptly be returned to the person upon the completion of the screening.

All property removed from an individual or his/her belongings, possession of which is a violation of the district weapons policy or other applicable district policies, shall be confiscated, and the individual shall be subject to discipline (if a student) and/or possible criminal prosecution.

Students who fail to cooperate with screening procedures shall be subject to discipline in accordance with District Policies and the Code of Student Conduct.

If a weapon is discovered, a School Police Officer shall take possession of the weapon/contraband and hold the weapon/contraband for evidentiary/discipline/prosecution purposes.

Metal Detector Alerts

In the event a detector indicates that dense metal is present on or about an individual, ESASD Employees administering the screening shall, if safely feasible, request the individual to indicate what metal is causing the alarm and to remove such objects for inspection. If the individual then clears the detection process without activating the alarm, the screening shall end. If ESASD employees administering the screening determine it is not safely feasible to request an individual to indicate what metal is causing the alarm, the ESASD employees shall immediately contact the School Police or a district administrator, as appropriate, for assistance.

For the safety of students, staff members and school visitors, administration will have the presence of and support from a School Police Officer and/or other trained security officers in the administration of metal detector screening.

School Police Officer

A School Police Officer shall be present at any metal detector screening or search for weapons or other contraband unless prohibited by this or another Board Policy. Outside of metal detectors, ESASD Employees shall contact the School Police Officer whenever they suspect that a weapon may be present.

Refusal of Detection Process

In the event an individual refuses to cooperate with metal detector screening procedures, appropriate action will be taken, including but not limited to the involvement of law enforcement authorities and denial of admission to an event on school property and/or, if the individual is a student, appropriate discipline.

Reasonable Suspicion Search

If a ESASD Employee has reasonable suspicion that a particular individual is in possession of an illegal or unauthorized weapon or contraband, an administrator may authorize or conduct a specific, non-randomized search of the individual and his/her personal effects which may use, but is not limited to, a hand-held or walk-through metal detector.

Medical Exemptions

Persons with internal or external medical devices or with documented medical exemption from metal detector screenings provided by a physician shall not be screened by a walk-through metal detector. Documentation must be provided. A hand-held metal detecting wand may be used in those incidents unless a physician's exemption expressly indicates otherwise. ESASD employees may, in their reasonable discretion, exclude individuals from screenings in cases where the screening is likely to cause significant difficulty for persons with disabilities, including but not limited to autism, emotional disturbance, intellectual disability, other health impairment specific learning disability or traumatic brain injury.