

Use of Metal Detectors Policy

1. Deployment of Metal Detecting Devices

- A. In view of the escalating presence of weapons in America's schools today, the Waterbury Board of Education for the Waterbury Public Schools authorizes the use of handheld metal detectors to check students and non-students person and/or personal effects.

2. Non-discriminatory Metal Detector Searches

- A. School officials or law enforcement officers may conduct handheld metal detector checks of groups or individuals if the checks are done in a minimally-intrusive, non-discriminatory manner (e.g. upon students entering the school; all students in a randomly selected class; randomly selected individuals entering an athletic event). Metal detector checks of groups or individuals may not be used to single out a particular individual or category of individuals. There shall always be at least two school/police staff present during the use of the metal detectors.
- B. If a school official or a law enforcement officer has a reasonable suspicion to believe that a particular student or non-student is in possession of an illegal or unauthorized metal-containing object or weapon, he or she may conduct a metal detector check of the student's or non-student's person and personal effects. A student's failure to permit a metal detector check, as provided in this policy, will be considered grounds for disciplinary action, including suspension and expulsion.
- C. Refusal of a student or any individual to permit a metal detector check, as provided in the policy, will also result in exclusion from school, school grounds and any school sponsored activity.

3. Notification of Metal Detector Use

- A. Upon enrollment and at the beginning of each school year, students and parent/guardians shall receive notice that the district may use handheld metal detector checks as part of its program to promote safety and deter the presence of weapons.

Legal Reference:

Connecticut General Statutes

10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules.

New Jersey v T.L.O., 53 U.S.L.W. 4083 (1985)

PA 94-0115 An Act Concerning School Searches

Policy adopted by the Waterbury Board of Education on September 6, 2012