

## Students

### Search and Seizure

#### Use of Metal Detectors

In view of the escalating presence of weapons used by and against school aged youth, the Board authorizes the use of hand-held and/or walk-through metal detectors to check a student's person or personal effects as follows:

- A. School officials or school security officers may conduct metal detector checks of all students entering the building before the start of the school day or for a school sponsored event and/or random searches of students (e.g., every third student entering school) if the checks are done in a minimally-intrusive, nondiscriminatory manner. Metal detector checks of groups of individuals may not be used to single out a particular individual or category of individuals.
- B. If a school official or a school security officer has reasonable suspicion to believe that a particular 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 person and personal effects.
- C. A student's failure to permit a metal detector check as provided in this policy will be considered grounds for disciplinary action.

The Superintendent and/or the Board of Education shall develop regulations for implementing this policy.

Upon enrollment and at the beginning of each school year, students and parents/guardians shall receive notice that the district uses metal detector checks as part of its program to promote safety and deter the presence of weapons. Signs shall be posted at all schools to explain that anyone may be scanned by metal detector for guns, knives or other illegal weapons when on campus or attending athletic or extracurricular events.

(cf. 5142.12 – Search and Seizure)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes  
10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules.  
New Jersey v. T.L.O., 469 U.S. 325 (1985)  
PA 94-115 (C.G.S. Sec. 54-33n) An Act Concerning School Searches

Policy adopted: October 10, 2006

NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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#### **Use of Metal Detectors**

The use of metal detectors in district schools is subject to the following procedures:

1. A notice will be posted in a central location at each school stating that weapons are not permitted at school and that students may be required to submit to a metal detector check. In addition, the metal detector policy will be included in future publications of the Student Code of Conduct and in Student/Parent handbooks.
2. Before conducting the metal detector checks, the building principal or his/her designee or school security officer will explain the scanning process to students, emphasizing that the checks are intended to maintain safe schools.
3. Before walk-through, students shall be asked to empty their pockets of metal objects and place the objects, together with their backpack, purse or other personal belongings on the table. Personal belongings may be subject to a metal detector check.
4. After an initial activation occurs, students shall be asked to walk through a second time.
5. If a second activation occurs, a hand-held metal detector will be used to detect the object(s) causing the activation.
6. If the activation is not eliminated or explained, staff shall escort the student to a private area for further inspection.
7. The search shall be limited to the detection of weapons. Upon activation of the detector, any subsequent search should be limited to the detection of the metal that caused the activation in the first place. For example, a school official should not use the fact of the activation to search a container which would obviously not hold a weapon.

#### **Metal Detector Checks of Individual Students**

Before conducting a metal detector check of an individual student, the administrator or officer must have individualized reasonable suspicion that the student is in possession of an illegal or unauthorized metal-containing object or weapon. The provisions of the board policy regarding personal searches shall be followed under these circumstances.

If a properly conducted search yields a weapon or any other illegal material, it shall be turned over to the proper legal authorities for ultimate disposition.