

# HAZLETON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: USE OF METAL DETECTORS  
AT SCHOOL FACILITIES

ADOPTED: September 16, 2010

REVISED: June 28, 2012

<p>1. Purpose SC 510 Pol. 218.1, 226, 227</p> <p>2. Definitions</p> <p>Pol. 218.1, 227, 237</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">226.1. USE OF METAL DETECTORS AT SCHOOL FACILITIES</p> <p>The Board recognizes that the educational environment of the schools is an important factor in the student’s ability to learn and a teacher to teach. Weapons and drugs in the schools, on school grounds and in the surrounding communities are a danger to that environment and learning has suffered as a result. Through this policy, it is the hope and desire of the Board to foster a proper educational environment for all students and to help promote the safety and welfare of students, staff and visitors, by authorizing Security Operations to conduct metal detector screenings of students, staff and visitors.</p> <p><b>Security Operations</b> - staff that includes security officers, cafeteria guards, and security supervisors who have been trained in proper procedures authorized by this policy.</p> <p><b>Contraband</b> - weapons, illegal drugs, electronic devices, and any other item that students are banned from possessing by an applicable state or federal law, city ordinance, Board policy or administrative regulations, or an individual school’s written rule.</p> <p><b>Metal detector activation</b> - occurs when a walk-through or handheld metal detecting device responds by alarm or other signal.</p> <p><b>Metal detector</b> - any handheld or walk-through detecting device.</p> <p><b>Metal detector screening</b> - the use of metal detectors, walk-through units or handheld wand-style units, on the students entering a school facility or their belongings on a given date. Everyone may be subject to metal detection and that causing the machine to alarm will result in a progressive search until the reason is discovered.</p>
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<p>3. Guidelines</p> <p>Pol. 103, 103.1</p> <p>Pol. 218.1, 226</p>	<p><b>Random screenings</b> - 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. <b>Random screenings</b> are screenings that are not conducted on a regularly scheduled basis, and are not necessitated by particularized safety concerns or special events. The Superintendent or his/her designee, the building administrator or school security may authorize metal detector screenings on randomly chosen days during a specified period of the day, using school personnel and if available, the school police officer assigned to the school, and/or roving units to operate the metal detectors available to their school (any combination of walk-through units and/or handheld wands), or using a task force comprised of school personnel or safety and security personnel.</p> <p><b>As-needed screenings</b> - the Superintendent or his/her designee, the security supervisor or the building administrator may authorize metal detector screenings on days chosen to address particular safety concerns such as recent violence in the neighborhood or on days on which special events such as athletic competitions or dignitary visits are held, using school personnel and if available, a school police officer assigned to the school, to operate the metal detectors available to their school (any combination of walk-through units and/or handheld wands), or using a task force comprised of school personnel and/or safety and security personnel.</p> <p><b>Daily screenings</b> - the Superintendent or his/her designee, the security supervisor or the building administrator may authorize daily metal detector screenings using school personnel and if available, a school police officer assigned to the school, to operate the metal detectors available to their school (any combination of walk-through units and/or handheld wands) when the Superintendent or designee, the building principal or security supervisor determines that the school requires such daily screenings.</p> <p>Only school security personnel who have been trained in the use of metal detectors shall operate the detectors under the direction of the building principal or security supervisor.</p> <p>Screenings may be conducted on an entire group or by random selection. Random screenings must ensure that no discrimination enters into the selection of the individuals to be screened (for example, gender, religion, race, etc.).</p> <p>In cases when there is reasonable suspicion that a weapon may be present, the school police officer shall be present at the time of the screening.</p>
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<p>Pol. 218.1, 225, 226</p>	<p>Searches are conducted for district’s purposes and not for the primary purpose of gathering evidence or instituting criminal proceedings; however, if a weapon is found, the appropriate law enforcement authorities shall be notified and the student with a weapon shall face the penalties set forth in the Board policies.</p>
<p>Pol. 218.1, 907</p>	<p>Signs shall be posted notifying students and visitors that they are subject to unannounced electronic screenings for weapons.</p> <p>The person using the metal detector may be of either gender, regardless of the gender of the person subject to the electronic screening for weapons.</p>
<p>Pol. 226</p>	<p>In conjunction with using the metal detectors, school personnel may inspect the contents of any backpack, bookbag, purse, or parcel for the limited purpose of determining whether a weapon is concealed therein, in accordance with Board policy.</p>
<p>Pol. 233</p>	<p>If individuals being screened activate the detector and they refuse to reveal the metal object, the police shall be notified. Students are subject to disciplinary actions, including but not limited to suspensions and expulsions.</p>
<p>Pol. 233</p>	<p>Students who fail to cooperate with screening procedures shall be subject to discipline for insubordination, including but not limited to suspensions.</p>
<p>Pol. 226</p>	<p>If the alarm sounds when a student passes through the metal detector or when the wand is passed along a student’s body, a search may be conducted in accordance with Board policy.</p>
<p>Pol. 218.1</p>	<p>If a weapon is discovered, the school police officer shall be notified immediately, and the weapon shall be held by the school official who discovers it until the school police officer arrives at the scene.</p>
	<p>References:</p> <p>School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 510</p> <p>Board Policy – 103, 103.1, 218.1, 225, 226, 227, 233, 237, 907</p>