

## Students

### Search and Seizure

#### Use of Metal Detectors

In view of the escalating presence of weapons in our schools, the Board authorizes the use of mobile or stationary as follows:

- When a school official or a law enforcement 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/or personal effects.
- When a school experiences a pattern of violence involving weapons or the discovery of weapons on school grounds or at school sponsored events or other circumstances indicating a likelihood of the presence of weapons at school, the administration shall be authorized to use metal detectors to conduct random checks for weapons. School officials or law enforcement officers may conduct metal detector checks of groups of individuals if the checks are done in a minimally-intrusive, nondiscriminatory manner (e.g., on all students in a randomly selected class; on every third individual entering an athletic event). Metal detector checks of groups of individuals may not be used to single out a particular individual or category of individuals.

A student's refusal to permit a metal detector check as provided in this policy will be considered grounds for disciplinary action.

#### Notice

Prior to instituting the initial use of metal detectors at any school, the administration shall notify students, parents and guardians of the intent to implement the use of metal detectors. Thereafter, 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. 5145.12 - Search and Seizure)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

54-33n Search of School Lockers and Property  
10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules.

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

Policy adopted: June 12, 2001  
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NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
New Milford, Connecticut