

Policy Information

Series 6000 - Students

Use of Hand Held Metal Detectors

Policy # 6245, 2.4.1

POLICY

2000 6245

Students

SUBJECT: USE OF HAND HELD METAL DETECTORS

Genesee Valley BOCES is committed to providing for the safety of students, faculty, staff, employees and all other persons within BOCES schools and programs. The possession or use of any weapon or dangerous item in schools threatens the safety, health and welfare of all individuals. It also creates an impediment to teaching and learning. The BOCES Board believes that the use of metal detectors or metal scanners will aid in protecting and promoting the safety, health and welfare of students, faculty, staff, employees and other persons within BOCES schools and programs.

The District Superintendent is directed to enact regulations as needed consistent with the law.

Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act

Board Approved
5/16/00

2000 R - 6245

Administrative Regulation
Students

SUBJECT: USE OF HAND HELD METAL DETECTORS

I. Authorization for Use of Metal Detectors

Group Metal Detector Check. The principal or designee of any BOCES school or program (or the chief administrator if there is not a specifically designated principal for the building or program) may elect to conduct a group metal detector check at the beginning of the school day or at any other time in order to deter students from bringing weapons or other dangerous items into school building(s). A group metal detector check shall include a check of persons and of their belongings.

Individual Metal Detector check of Student's Person. A metal detector check of the person of an individual student that is not part of a group metal detector check may be made when there is sufficient cause to believe that an individual student possesses a weapon or other dangerous metal item.

Individual Metal Detector Check of Individual Student's Belongings. An individual student's belongings may be subjected to a metal detector check that is not part of a group metal detector check

when there is reasonable suspicion that the individual student's belongings may contain a weapon or other dangerous metal item.

Weapons or Dangerous Items. For purposes of these regulations, "weapons or dangerous items" include not only guns, firearms, knives and other items commonly referred to as weapons but also items such as razor blades, pieces of pipe, railroad spikes, brass knuckles, chains and other similar items.

II. Procedure for Group Metal Detector Check

Notice. At or near the beginning of each school term (September for the regular school term; July for a summer school term), the students in each school and/or program will be provided notice of the metal detector scanning program. This notice may be given orally or in written form. In addition, written notice on a sign or poster shall be placed at the major entrances to each school and each point of scanning.

Conductors of Metal Detector Check. All metal detector checks shall be made by individuals suitably trained in the use of the metal detectors. All metal detector checks will be made by a person of the same sex as the student being checked.

Place of Metal Detector Check. Metal detector checks may be made at building entrances or at any other location within a building or on school property. When a general metal detector check is made at the entrance to a building or property, students will be allowed to use only the designated points of entry.

Students Subject to Group Metal Detector Check. All students are subject to a group metal detector check. Every student may be scanned with a metal detector or a random formula may be used to limit the metal detector check. If a random formula is used, the individuals conducting the metal detector check will file the random formula with the principal of the building or program (or chief administrator if there is not a specifically denominated principal for the school or program) at or before the end of the day of the general metal detector check. If a random formula is utilized, it may be discontinued at any time in favor of scanning all students. A random formula may not be abandoned, however, to select a particular student for a scan of the individual student's person unless there is sufficient cause to believe that the particular student is in possession of a weapon or other dangerous metal item. A random formula may not be abandoned to select an individual student's belongings for scanning unless there is a reasonable suspicion that the particular student's belongings may contain a weapon or other dangerous metal item.

General Procedure. Scanning shall be conducted in a courteous and respectful manner with due regard both to efficiently scanning for weapons and other dangerous metal items and for the dignity of the student being scanned.

Specific Procedure for Group metal Detector Check. The following procedure will be used in group metal detector checks:

1. Prior to scanning, the conductor of the scan shall briefly explain to the student that the purpose of scanning is to detect weapons and other dangerous metal items.
2. The student will then be asked to place any coat, jacket, bag, parcel or other accessory (such as a bookbag, backpack, purse, etc.) on a table or desk and to remove any metal objects from the clothing the student is wearing and from any coat, jacket, bag, parcel or other accessory and to place those metal items on the table or desk.
3. After the student has complied with that request, the student will be scanned, beginning at the toes and continuing up to the head. If scanning of the student's person indicates the presence of a metal item other than an apparent item of jewelry or part of an article of clothing (button, hook,

buckle, zipper, snap, etc.), the conductor will ask the student to remove the item and place it on the table or desk. The conductor will then perform a second scan of the student's person in the area that activated the metal detector. If scanning again indicates the presence of a metal object, the student will be escorted to a reasonable private area for a pat-down search. If no metal item is indicated on the second scan, there shall be no further scanning of that area.

4. The pat-down search shall be conducted by a person of the same sex as the student and in the presence of an adult witness of the same sex as the student. Prior to the pat-down search, the conductor will again ask the student to remove any metal items and place them as directed. The pat-down search will be geared to locate the item or items which triggered the scanning device. The conductor shall pat the student's clothing in the area or areas in which the scanner was activated. If an item is felt, the student shall be asked to remove the item and place it as directed by the conductor. If the student refuses, the conductor will remove the item (and again scan the student, repeating this procedure until no metal item is indicated). If the student does remove all items as requested, the student's person will be scanned again. If the scanner does not indicate the presence of metal, no further scanning or pat down will be performed. If the scanning indicates the presence of any metal, the conductor of the pat-down shall request the student to remove the item; if the student refuses, the conductor shall remove the item or items from the student's person in an appropriate manner. This procedure shall continue until scanning indicates no metal.
5. Scanning shall also be performed on all of the coats, jackets, bags, parcels and other accessories of students. If the scanner indicates the presence of metal, other than an apparent and normal part of the item, the conductor will ask the student to remove the metal object and place it on a table or desk. If the student does so, the conductor the conductor will scan the item again. If the scanner does not indicate the presence of metal on the subsequent scanning, the scanning of that item will stop. If the scanner does indicate the presence of metal, the conductor will search the area of the item that indicated the presence of metal and remove any metal found. After any metal item has been removed, the conductor shall conduct an additional scan of the item to insure that all metal items have been discovered and shall remove any metal item (repeating until no metal item is indicated). If the student refuses to remove an item, the conductor will search the area or areas of the item that indicated the presence of metal. If metal is located, the conductor shall remove the item. The conductor will then again scan the item to make sure that no metal items have been missed. If scanning reveals no further metal items, scanning shall cease; if metal is detected, this process will continue until scanning no longer indicates any metal item.

III. Refusal to Submit to Scanning

If a student refuses to submit to the scanning of the student's person or the student's belongings, the individual conducting the scanning shall notify the building administrator and may proceed with the scanning in the presence of an adult witness who shall be of the same sex of the student. The refusal of a student to submit to metal detector scanning of the student's person or belongings shall be grounds for suspension, including a long-term suspension in excess of five school days.

IV. Disposition of Property

Any property removed during scanning or pat-down which is not a weapon or other dangerous item or an illegal item or an item prohibited by school policy, rule, or regulation shall be returned to the student when scanning and pat-down, if any, are completed.

Any weapon or other dangerous item or illegal item or item prohibited by school policy, rule, or regulation which is discovered during scanning and/or pat-down shall be confiscated and delivered to the principal or chief administrator of the building or program. The principal or chief administrator shall turn any weapon or dangerous item or illegal item over to the proper legal authorities. Any item which is in contravention of school policy, rule, or regulation but which is not illegal or properly

receivable by an outside authority shall be appropriately disposed by the building or program principal or chief administrator. This may include turning the item over to a parent or person in parental relationship to the student. A student shall be subject to discipline, including suspension, in accordance with State law and school policy, rule regulation and code with respect to any item confiscated or subject to confiscation.

V. Students with Disabilities

All students with disabilities shall be subject to scanning and pat-down in the same manner as other students. If, however, a student's disability and/or any aid related to a student's disability substantially interferes with the ability to scan the student's person, the student may be subjected to a pat-down search by an individual of the same sex as the student in the presence of a witness who is the same sex as the student.

VI. Procedure for Individual Metal Detector Check

Individual metal detector checks shall be performed as nearly as practicable in accordance with the procedure for group checks except that the only notice required shall be oral notice to the student upon a determination of sufficient cause or reasonable suspicion.

Board Approved
11/21/00