

Leechburg Area School District PA

805.2 Metal/Weapon Detection/Security Screening Systems/Devices

Policy

Title: **805.2 Metal/Weapon Detection/Security Screening Systems/Devices**

Section: **800 Operations**

Adopted

Purpose

The Leechburg Area School District is committed to maintaining safe, orderly schools in order to promote health and safety within the school setting and to provide a school environment conducive to education.

Authority

In Pennsylvania, it is a crime to possess any weapon in a school building, on school grounds, on a school bus or on any other means of conveyance providing transportation to or from any elementary or secondary publicly-funded educational institutions, at other school facilities, or at any school sponsored or related event (hereinafter “schools/school facilities/events”). In addition, school boards have the authority to establish reasonable rules and regulations regarding the conduct and deportment of students and/or others attending or seeking to enter public schools and/or events and Judicial decisions have recognized the right, authority, appropriateness and need for school and/or other governmental officials to administer searches, including, but not limited to searches by the use of Metal/Weapon Detection/Security Screening Systems/Devices upon the entrance into school buildings, grounds, facilities and/or at school sponsored or related events.

In conjunction with it’s authority to create reasonable rules and regulations to maintain a safe climate, the Leechburg Area School District Board of School Directors has authorized the use of Metal/Weapon Detection/Security Screening Systems/ Devices, for the purpose of reducing, and in its effort to eliminate, the presence of weapons or any other contraband in District schools, facilities and/or at school related events.

Policy

All parties seeking admission/entrance to schools, school facilities and/or other school events may be subject to the District’s Metal/Weapon Detection/Security Screening process.

Visitors seeking admission to District schools, school grounds and/or school facilities shall present a photo identification card prior to being granted access to the school/

school facilities. Identity information may be recorded for District monitoring/record purposes

All parties seeking admission/entrance to District school events and/or other programs (athletic events, musical programs, etc.) may be subject to the screening process at the discretion of the administration.

Refusal by any party to submit to the screening process shall result in the individual being denied access to the school building/facilities/event and any such party shall be required to leave school property immediately.

****Weapons shall include, but shall not necessarily be limited to, those items defined and/or described in 18 Pa.C.S.A. § 912 entitled “Possession of weapon on school property”, 24 P.S. §13-1317.2 entitled “Possession of weapons prohibited” or in District Policy No. 218.1 entitled “Weapons”, and any amendments thereto. Although Weapon does not generally include any device for which the particular person is authorized by the school to possess the same for a legitimate educational purpose, such as tools, scissors, compasses, pencils, implements for art class, and the like, or any device or object which has been given prior approval by the principal in connection with any educational program or extracurricular activity, any party whose verbal or physical action indicates the use, the threat to use or the intent to use any such object in a manner other than that for which it is specifically permitted to be used by school authorities, or in an aggressive, threatening, and/or intimidating manner, shall be considered in possession of a weapon.**

Guidelines

Appropriate Metal/Weapon Detection/Security Screening Systems/Devices will be used to reduce, with the goal of eliminating, the presence of weapons in our schools, school facilities, conveyances providing school transportation and/or at school sponsored or related events. Use of such devices requires approval by the Superintendent or designee.

The following are Board approved guidelines for Metal/Weapon Detection/ Security Screening Systems/Devices

- “Metal/Weapon Detection/Security Screening Systems/Devices Search” notification signs shall be posted at the entrance to all District facilities/events at which the District’s Metal/Weapon Detection/Security Screening Systems/Devices are or may be used. The same shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the entrances of the Junior/Senior High School, David Leech Elementary School, Cafeteria, Gymnasium, and Central Office, or at any other location of a school sponsored event. Said signs shall include notification that the Leechburg Area School District will not be responsible for any items damaged or lost in the Metal/Weapon Detection System/Devices screening or bag checking process.

- In addition to the posting of said signs as set forth above, notification of the existence and use of said Metal/Weapon Detection System/Security Screening Device Policy and shall be included in the Student Handbooks printed after the adoption of this policy, shall be mailed to each student's-family on an annual basis, and shall be included on the District's website.
- Metal/Weapon Detection System/Security Screenings may be conducted in schools, in or on school facilities (including modes of school district transportation) or at school events.
- Metal/Weapon Detection System/Security Screening Device searches may be conducted at the District's discretion during, before or after-school events such as school dances, the Prom, or any athletic event.
- The Leechburg Area School District Resource Officer or other qualified/certified trainers will provide training for other security officers and/or District personnel involved in Metal/Weapon Detection System/Security Screening Device searches.
- The Leechburg Area School District administrative, professional, support staff, and/or other District authorized/designated personnel (i.e. contracted security services, etc.) will provide supervision during a Metal/Weapon Detection System/Security Screening search.

Metal/Weapon Detection System/Security Screenings/Devices

During a Metal/Weapon Detection System/Security Screening, all parties to be screened shall be directed to walk through the metal detector upon entering the school, school facility and/or event. Said parties to be screened are responsible for producing any electronic device prior to the Metal/Weapon Detection System/Security Screening and bag checks. The Leechburg Area School District will not be responsible for any items damaged or lost in the Metal/Weapon Detection System/Security Screening or bag checking process.

Step One –

Should the Metal/Weapon Detection System/Security Screening alarm sound:

- The party setting off said alarm will be directed to move to one of the adjacent tables where the individual shall have the opportunity to remove and exhibit objects that may have been responsible for sounding the alarm, or in the alternative, a Leechburg Area School District security person or staff member will then search the party's book bag, backpack, gym bag, purse and/or other parcel that the party has in his/her possession.

- Following a search of the party's book bag, backpack, gym bag, purse or other parcels that said party has in his/her/their personal possession, the party shall be required to once again walk through the metal detector. If said detector is activated again, while being monitored by security personnel, the party will be asked to remove all objects and shall be subjected to another screening. A hand-held detector will be used to scan the party at the predetermined area.

Step Two –

Should the alarm sound after using the hand-held detector:

- The party will be directed to move to a designated area by the District's designated official/Security Personnel.
- While closely monitoring, the District's designated official/Security Personnel shall request that the party remove any objects from their person.
- If no objects are produced, or should the alarm continue to sound despite their production, the party will be escorted to a private area.
- In this private area, an administrator and/or a properly trained security person, shall conduct a pat-down search. Absent an absolute emergency requiring immediate action, said pat-down search shall be conducted in the presence of a second authorized District designee, and the pat-down search itself shall be done by a duly authorized designee of the same sex.
- If during the pat-down search, the party conducting the pat-down search feels any object that gives rise to reasonable suspicion on the part of the party conducting said search that the same may constitute a weapon or other prohibited contraband, the party subject to the search will be instructed to remove the object, while being closely monitored by the District security personnel. Should circumstances be such that in the reasonable judgment of the District's security personnel or the District's other designated official, a threat exists to the District personnel or others, District personnel shall be authorized to take any and all lawful actions that may be necessary, including, but not limited to the use of reasonable force, to secure the situation, and to remove and take control of any such object and/or the individual giving rise to said threat.
- Subject to the party having cooperated, upon the removal of all objects that may have been the subject of concern, the party will again be instructed to pass through the Metal/Weapon Detection System/Security Screening Device.
- Should the party refuse to remove all objects of concern, should the party at any time refuse to once again submit to the Metal/Weapon Detection System/Security Screening Device, should said party once again set off the Metal/Weapon Detection System/Security Screening Device alarm, said party

shall be detained by the School Police/Resource Officer and/or other designated school official, and local police authorities shall be called to finish the search activity. Should the matter involve a student or a juvenile, good faith efforts shall be made by District Authorities to contact and notify the student's/juvenile's parents/guardians, however, where circumstances warrant prompt or immediate action, District shall not be under any obligation to do so in advance of taking those actions reasonably necessary to secure and stabilize the situation.

- Contraband items of any kind that are found during the search will result in appropriate consequences as designated by the Leechburg Area School District Code of Conduct and/or by law. Contraband items may include (but are not limited to) lighters, tobacco products, medication (prescribed, over the counter, vitamins, supplements), and weapons.

In all cases, the search process will cease when the party passes through the Metal/Weapon Detection System/Security Screening Device or is wanded without activating the alarm.

No Obligation to Use

Nothing in this policy requires the use of a Metal/Weapon Detection System/Security Screening Device.

**This policy is applicable during school, after school hours and/or at any school sponsored event.