

Metal Detecting Wand Use Policy

Purpose

The safety and well-being of all students and staff is a top priority. To support a secure learning environment, the district may use a handheld metal-detecting wand during investigations involving **suspected weapons** or **vaping devices**, in accordance with district policy and the Discipline & Behavior Matrix.

This procedure is intended to:

- Prevent the possession and concealment of dangerous or prohibited items.
- Ensure that searches are conducted **fairly, respectfully, and consistently**.
- Maintain a safe, distraction-free school environment.

When a Wand May Be Used

A handheld metal-detecting wand may be used **only when school staff have reasonable suspicion** that a student may be in possession of:

- A weapon or sharp object, or
- A vaping device or related illegal or banned paraphernalia.

Reasonable suspicion may be based on direct observation, odors, staff reports, reliable student reports, video evidence, or other credible information.

Who May Conduct a Wand Search

- **Administrators or trained designees** may conduct wand searches.
- Searches will be conducted **by a staff member of the same gender** when possible.
- A second adult will be present as a witness whenever feasible.

Parents/guardians wishing to search their own child **may do so inside the high school**, under administrator supervision.

Wanding Procedure

1. The administrator will explain to the student:
 - Why the search is necessary.
 - How the wand works.
 - What the next steps will be.
2. The student will be asked to remove metal objects such as phones, keys, jewelry, or belts that may trigger the wand.
3. The administrator will sweep the wand **around the exterior of the student's clothing**, without physical contact, following established safety procedures.
4. If the wand indicates the presence of an item:
 - The student will be asked to **voluntarily produce** the suspected item (weapon or vaping device).
 - If the student complies, the item will be confiscated and handled according to district discipline, state law, and safety protocols.
5. If the student **refuses to comply** and the wand continues to indicate the presence of an item:
 - The student may be assigned **out-of-school suspension** according to the Discipline & Behavior Matrix.
 - Parents/guardians will be notified immediately.

Student Rights and Privacy

- Searches will be conducted in a **private location**, away from other students.
- Staff will treat all students with dignity and respect throughout the process.
- Searches will be limited in scope and conducted only to locate suspected prohibited items.

Discipline

Consequences for possession of weapons, vaping devices, or refusal to comply with a safety search are assigned according to the district's **Discipline & Behavior Matrix** and state law.

Consequences may include confiscation, suspension, law enforcement involvement, or other appropriate disciplinary action.

Parent Notification

Parents/guardians will be notified:

- When their student has been wanded due to reasonable suspicion;
- When prohibited items are found;
- When the student refuses to cooperate and suspension is assigned.

Documentation

Administrators will complete an incident report after every wand search. Documentation will include:

- Reason for reasonable suspicion
- Names of students involved
- Names of staff involved
- Items found (if any)
- Disciplinary action taken

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure effectiveness, compliance with legal standards, and alignment with district safety practices.