



## **POLICY NO. 2010**

### **METAL DETECTORS ON SCHOOL BOARD PROPERTY**

Unauthorized weapons and other dangerous objects have an adverse and disruptive effect on the educational environment process and have no place within The School Board of Broward County, Florida ("SBBC") property. In a continuous effort to maintain a safe and secure environment for all students, employees, and visitors, metal detectors may be utilized to screen persons for weapons and other dangerous objects that are prohibited on SBBC property in accordance with applicable law, SBBC Policies, and the Code of Student Conduct.

This policy applies to all persons who enter SBBC property at any time during instructional hours, before and after school, at special events, during athletic events, and any other time and for any reason.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed to limit the authority of SBBC administrators to search any student when there is reasonable suspicion to believe that such student is in possession of items including, but not limited to, illegally possessed substances or objects, weapons, or other dangerous substances or objects.

#### **A. Definitions.**

1. "Metal Detector(s)" means handheld metal detectors or walk-through metal detectors.
2. "Person(s)" means an individual including, but not limited to students ("students"), employees, contractors, lessees, licensees, visitors, and trespassers.
3. "SBBC Property" means any school facility, school grounds, administrative facility, other facility, or real property, that is owned, leased, licensed, chartered, contracted, or rented by SBBC.

#### **B. Notices.** Notices will be posted at all main entrances and several prominent locations at each SBBC property. These notices shall inform the public and students that all persons may be subject to a security screening for weapons and other dangerous objects prohibited by applicable law or SBBC policy.

#### **C. Screenings.**

1. All persons (including service animals who accompany persons), except employees, entering any school facility and/or any school grounds may be screened by designated SBBC employees or SBBC agents by walkthrough or handheld metal detector. All persons (including service animals who accompany persons) entering certain designated SBBC property, except any school facility and/or any school grounds, may be screened by designated SBBC employees or

SBBC agents by walkthrough or handheld metal detector.

2. In cases where the metal detector signals an alert, all persons may be subject to a secondary screening and/or a further search. Any person's personal property will be visually inspected or scanned separately.
  3. Screenings and searches of students resulting from a finding of reasonable suspicion may include the use of metal detectors, specially trained animals, or any combination of those methods, as well as those described in this policy.
  4. For persons who may not be able to walk through the metal detectors, an alternative screening method will be used dependent upon the person's restrictions.
  5. For persons who notify the screener of a medical condition, an alternative screening method will be used dependent upon the person's medical condition.
- D. Firearm or Other Dangerous Weapon. Any person found to be in possession of a firearm or other dangerous weapon prohibited on SBBC property shall be immediately referred to law enforcement and may be subject to arrest pursuant to applicable laws. Students found to be in possession of a firearm or other dangerous weapon prohibited on SBBC property will additionally be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to the Student Code of Conduct. SBBC employees who notice or detect any firearm or dangerous weapon outside of the screening process shall immediately implement emergency procedures as directed by SBBC administrators, which may include, but not be limited to activation of mobile panic systems (including Alyssa's Alert).
- E. Refusal to Submit. Students who refuse to submit to a metal detector screening will face disciplinary action up to and including possible expulsion, will be denied entry onto SBBC property, and parents will be contacted. Any visitor, contractor, or other adult who refuses to be screened shall be denied entry onto SBBC property and/or escorted from SBBC property.
- F. Documentation and Student Discipline. Any incident involving the discovery of prohibited items through metal detector screenings shall be documented and reported to the SBBC site administrator. Appropriate disciplinary actions will be taken, and additional actions such as Behavioral Threat Assessments may be completed for students.
- G. Random Screenings. SBBC reserves the right to conduct randomized weapons screenings within randomly selected classrooms. SBBC employees shall make every effort to minimize the disruption to instructional time. Randomized screenings will be conducted without prior notice to students in order to maintain screening effectiveness and overall sense of deterrence. Additionally, randomized screenings may include the use of specially trained animals. All students in the randomly selected classrooms will be screened to ensure fairness and prevent discrimination.

Policy Custodian: Division of Safety, Security, & Emergency Preparedness

Authority: Sections 1001.41(2), and 1001.32(2), Florida Statutes

Laws Implemented: Sections 1006.07, 1006.08, and 1006.09, Florida Statutes

History: Adopted 01/11/22; Amended 04/05/22, 08/21/24