



Richmond-Burton CHSD 157  
Nippersink SD 2  
*Office of the Superintendent*  
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### **Purpose of Request**

The administrations of District 157 and District 2 respectfully request Board of Education approval for the use of handheld metal detectors (“wands”) by building administration as a safety and investigative tool. This request is made in response to ongoing student safety considerations, the increased prevalence of vaping devices and related paraphernalia in schools, and the need for consistent, minimally intrusive, and effective search practices. The proposed use of handheld metal detectors is intended to enhance existing safety procedures while remaining fully aligned with Board Policy 7:140 – Search and Seizure.

### **Request for Approval**

The administrations of both districts request Board approval to authorize building administrators and trained school personnel to utilize handheld metal detectors as part of student search procedures, in accordance with Board Policy 7:140 and the procedures outlined below.

### **Alignment with Board Policy 7:140**

The proposed use of handheld metal detectors operates fully within the framework of Board Policy 7:140, including that searches of students and personal effects may occur when there are reasonable grounds for suspecting a violation of law or school rules, and that searches must be reasonably related to their objective and not excessively intrusive, considering the student’s age, sex, and nature of the infraction. When feasible, searches should be conducted outside the view of others, in the presence of an adult witness, and by same-sex personnel when appropriate. Evidence discovered may be seized and impounded, used for disciplinary action, and transferred to law enforcement when appropriate. The use of a handheld metal detector is considered a minimally intrusive search method and supports the intent and legal framework of Policy 7:140.

### **Proposed Procedures for Use**

Handheld metal detectors may be used when there are reasonable grounds to suspect a student is in possession of a weapon, vaping device, drugs, alcohol, or other prohibited items, as well as part of targeted or random safety screenings at school entry points, school events or activities, or in situations involving elevated safety concerns. When a handheld metal detector is used, the scan will be conducted by trained staff in a respectful and professional manner. If the device signals a positive alert, the student will be asked to identify and remove the item and a secondary scan may be conducted. If the alert cannot be resolved, the student may be directed to a private area for further inquiry consistent with Policy 7:140. All procedures will prioritize student dignity, privacy, and minimal disruption.

### **Discovery of Prohibited Items**

If a search produces evidence of a violation, the item will be confiscated, seized, and impounded, and the student will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with Board policy and the Student Handbook. Law enforcement may be notified when appropriate. This includes, but is not limited to, weapons, vaping devices or electronic cigarettes, alcohol, or controlled substances.

### **Refusal to Comply**

A student's refusal to comply with a lawful search, including wand procedures, will be treated as insubordination, may result in disciplinary consequences, and may contribute to additional reasonable suspicion supporting further action. In addition, any student who refuses to comply with a lawful search, including wand procedures, will be sent home for the remainder of the school day. A positive detection by a metal detector or wand that is not resolved by the student (e.g., failure to produce or identify the item causing the alert) will be treated in the same manner as an admission of possession of a prohibited item and may result in disciplinary consequences.

### **Searches of School Property**

Consistent with Board Policy 7:140, school property such as lockers, desks, and parking areas may be searched without notice or consent, and students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in these areas. Vehicles on school property remain subject to District search requirements and consent provisions. Handheld metal detectors may be used in conjunction with these searches when appropriate.

### **Documentation**

In alignment with Policy 7:140, a written report will be completed following searches when feasible and submitted to the Superintendent or designee if requested.

### **Training and Implementation**

The administrations of both districts will ensure that staff are trained in the proper use of handheld metal detectors, that procedures are implemented consistently and fairly, and that communication is provided to students and families regarding expectations.

### **Conclusion**

The administrations of District 157 and District 2 believe this request provides a practical and legally sound enhancement to existing safety procedures, establishes a consistent approach across districts, and serves as a proactive response to emerging student conduct concerns. We respectfully request Board approval to move forward with the implementation of this procedure.