

8467.1 WEAPON SCREENING

PURPOSE

The safety and security of our students and staff is of utmost importance, without creating an unnatural or frightening experience. The purpose of weapons detection screening is to discourage individuals from bringing weapons or other harmful items e.g., electronic smoking devices, drugs or alcohol into Union High School and its campus, in violation of existing Board Policies, Regulations and applicable statutes and regulations. Weapons detection screening will be used daily at Union High School, including events outside school hours, facilities, and related school functions.

Board Policy No. 8467 prohibits the possession, use, or exchange of any firearm or weapon in any school building, on school grounds, at any school-sponsored event, and on school sanctioned transportation except as the possession and use of a firearm or weapon is authorized by law and required in the performance of the possessor's duty. This Policy is intended to complement and harmonize with existing Board Policies and Regulations. To the extent this Policy conflicts with existing Policy, the terms of the existing Policy will govern.

DEFINITION

Weapon shall have the same meaning as in Policy and Regulation No. 8467 – Firearms and Weapons, inclusive of the definition of "firearm".

A "weapon" means anything readily capable of lethal use or of inflicting serious bodily injury. The term includes, but is not limited to, all (1) firearms, even though not loaded or lacking a clip or other component to render them immediately operable; (2) components which can be readily assembled into a weapon; (3) gravity knives, switchblade knives, daggers, dirks, stilettos, or other dangerous knives, billies, blackjacks, bludgeons, metal knuckles, sandclubs, slingshots, cesti or similar leather bands studded with metal filings or razor blades imbedded in wood; and (4) stun guns; and any weapon or other device which projects, releases, or emits tear gas or any other substance intended to produce temporary physical discomfort or permanent injury through being vaporized or otherwise dispensed in the air. N.J.S.A. 2C:39-1(r).

The definition can also extend to objects that, while not designed as weapons, are used in a manner that could cause harm including any simulated, replica, toy, or look-alike weapon.



POLICY

TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION

Possession

“Possession”, shall have the same meaning as used in Board Policy No. 5530, 5553 and 8467, and an act constitutes “possession”, if the possessor knowingly procured or received the thing possessed or was aware of his control thereof for a sufficient period to have been able to terminate his possession. N.J.S.A. 2C:2-1 (c).

Additionally, as used in this Policy, “possession” means having a weapon on one’s person or in an area subject to one’s control on “school grounds”, as that term is defined in Board Policy No. 5530.

Electronic Smoking Device

Electronic smoking device shall have the same meaning as in Board Policy No. 5533 – Student Smoking and means “an electronic device that can be used to deliver nicotine or other substances to the person inhaling from the device, including, but not limited to, an electronic cigarette, cigar, cigarillo, or pipe.” N.J.S.A. 26:3D-57.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- All persons entering Union High School or attending a school activity may be subject to daily, regular, or random screening with a metal detector. The metal detector may be a walk-through, hand-held, or other type of metal detection device. Bags and parcels also may be searched by means of metal detecting devices, by hand, and/or X-ray Scanning.
- Signs have been posted and information distributed to parents, students and staff explaining the weapons screening policy and what items are prohibited or illegal.
- Weapons are not permitted on school grounds except for authorized law enforcement. Refusal to cooperate with the screening procedure will result in the denial of entry and/or disciplinary/legal action. In the case of a District student’s refusal to cooperate, a school official may consider the refusal as an element of, but not the sole factor in, their reasonable suspicion analysis. Persons that do not consent to a metal detection screening may be denied admittance.
- Each person operating a weapons detection screening device shall be trained in the proper use of the device and the detection of any malfunction in the operation of the instrument. Adjustments in the settings of the device shall only be made at the recommendation of law enforcement and/or security staff and at the direction of district and or building administration and in consultation with the device vendor.
- **Clear Book Bags:** All students must carry a clear book bag to school. Please see the image in the regulation for an example of the bags that will be acceptable for use at UHS.
- **Personal Bags for Students:** Students may carry a small, non-clear bag for personal items only, which may be subject to search by school personnel.
- **Belongings Search Upon Arrival:** Students’ belongings will be checked by school staff upon arrival.



POLICY

TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION

- **Weapons Detection System:** Union High School uses a weapons detection system at the following entrances: Door #1, Door #2, Door #14, and Door #18. (Entrances may be subject to change.) All students will be required to pass through the system each morning upon arrival (XTRACT One Weapons Detection system). Please see more information below. At this time, district employees are not required to pass through the system when entering the school building.
- **School Identification Badges:** All students will be **required** to wear their school ID visibly at all times during the school day.

Students with disabilities violating the provisions of this Policy shall be addressed in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.8.

Nothing in this Policy shall be construed to prohibit the reporting of a crime committed by a child with a disability to the appropriate law enforcement or judicial authorities, or to prevent such authorities from exercising their responsibilities with regard to the application of Federal or State law to crimes committed by a child with disabilities.

The procedures for removal from and return to the general education program of a student for firearms offenses and assaults with weapons offenses shall be in accordance with Policy and Regulation 5611 – Removal of Students for Firearms Offenses and Policy and Regulation 5613 – Removal of Students for Assaults with Weapons Offenses.

The Superintendent or designee shall prepare regulations to implement this Policy for the guidance of school staff in dealing with incidents involving firearms or weapons in the school district.

The Board's reporting requirements to law enforcement officials and the handling of firearms and weapons outlined in this Policy and in Policy and Regulation No. 8467, and in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-3 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4, shall be in addition to any reporting and handling requirements included in the current Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials.

Adopted: _____, 2025

