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Serving the communities of Dolton ▪ Riverdale
Harvey ▪ South Holland

September 26, 2023

Concealed Weapons Detection Implementation

Dear Parents and Guardians of Dolton West School District 148,

During the Board of Education meeting on March 28, 2023, a decision was made which focused on adding an additional layer of safety and security that will keep our scholars, staff, community, and buildings safer. We are in the process of implementing a weapons detection system in all of our buildings.

The Concealed Weapons Detection (CWD) system is utilized by a variety of organizations such as Wrigley Field and Disney World, along with over 8,000+ schools in the country, to scan for weapons as individuals enter buildings.

Based on research that includes safety experts, technology partners, and other school districts, we believe adding this technology to our existing safety tools and practices, such as our school resource officers (SRO's), video surveillance, and BluePoint Rapid Emergency Response System, will help provide a critical layer of security that will help keep our scholars, staff, community, and buildings safer.

The CWD scans scholars, staff, and visitors while they walk through the device at a normal pace without slowing down or emptying their pockets and backpacks except for a few items listed below.

IMPORTANT: The CWD does not typically require people to empty their pockets or bags, but could issue alerts on **Chromebooks, eyeglass cases, umbrellas, and certain water bottles** because of their shape, size, density and their similarity to certain types of weapons. We will have a table for everybody to take these items out, so these are bypassed and do not cause delays. ***We are requesting the scholars review the contents of their backpacks and remove items that would unnecessarily delay them from getting to their classroom in a timely manner.***

The feedback we have received about this system has been positive. We have been installing the system at buildings throughout the district and expect to have the technology, process, and implementation completed by October 2, 2023. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need more information, please contact your building principal.

Thank you for your support in keeping our schools as safe as possible.

Educationally yours,

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Nohelty", written over a large, stylized blue and white graphic element.

Dr. Kevin J. Nohelty
Superintendent of Schools

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