

HERE TO LEARN



SCHOOLS SHOULD BE SAFE & SUPPORTIVE SPACES FOR STUDENTS TO LEARN

But LAUSD's mandatory metal detector search policy (BUL-5424.2) prevents schools from creating safe learning environments for all students and makes students of color feel targeted. LAUSD's mandatory metal detector search policy requires staff at every school serving grades 6-12 to pull students out of class each day to conduct metal detector searches of students and their belongings.

The administrators then took our class roster and, as I expected, said my name first, and then also said the names of several other students. While the principal was searching my bag, the assistant principal searched our bodies with the metal detector. He told me to take off my sweater and then waved the wand over my body. He then told me to take off my shoes and he waved the wand over my shoes. Neither administrator found anything from the search.

After the searches, I felt violated and I couldn't focus on my class work. It made me feel like a criminal even though I didn't do anything wrong. It was very frustrating and made me not want to be in class. I also felt targeted because one of the administrators was looking at me, knew who I was, and chose me first. It made me feel very uncomfortable and, deep inside, it seemed like she was discriminating against me because I'm the only African American student in the class.

I did not return to school for a month after I was searched. I felt judged and discriminated against. I was worried that if I came back to school, there would be another search and I would again feel targeted because of my race. After leaving for about a month, I came back for the last two weeks of the semester because I realized how valuable my education is.

—Former LAUSD Student

#HereToLearn is a report created by the #StudentsNotSuspects coalition to convince LAUSD to eliminate its mandatory metal detector search policy and implement a more supportive and holistic school safety model. The #SNS coalition includes Youth Justice Coalition, Public Counsel, ACLU Foundation of Southern California, Black Lives Matter, Students Deserve, and United Teachers Los Angeles. To learn more, please visit www.aclusocal.org/here-to-learn.



LAUSD'S METAL DETECTOR SEARCHES

DO NOT MAKE SCHOOLS SAFER

LA's metal detector searches are ineffective at finding or deterring weapons. Researchers at UCLA's Civil Rights Project analyzed LAUSD metal detection search logs related to any entries containing weapons in the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years. According to their analysis:



105,366

Middle & High School Students Searched



\$1,120,000

Dollars Estimated (in staffing costs alone) For LAUSD Schools To Implement The Policy



24,000 HRS

Student Instructional Time Lost

Based on the logs, researchers estimate that 7,248 items were confiscated during mandatory metal detector searches in 2013-14 and 2014-15. Only 86 items were weapons and ZERO were guns.

61.2% School Supplies



9.9% Self Care & Hygiene



8.8 % Lighters



4.3% Misc.



3.3% Drug Paraphernalia



2.7% Electronics



2.4% Marijuana



2.2% Cigarettes/Vape Pens



2.0 Graffiti Items



1.4% Food/Gum/Candy



1.2% Non-Gun Weapons

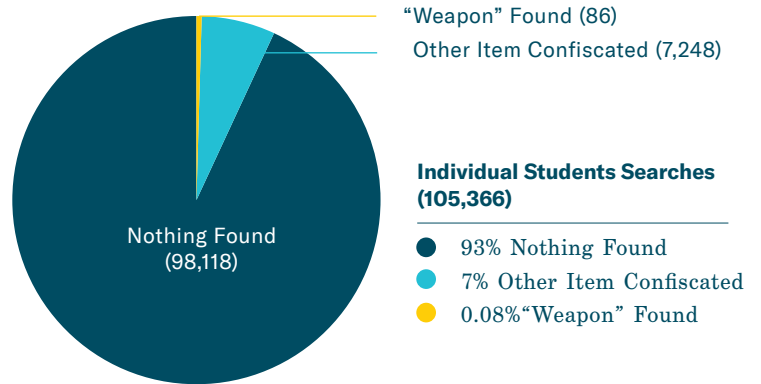


0.5% Alcohol/Non-Marijuana Drugs



ZERO GUNS FOUND! THROUGH THE MANDATORY METAL DETECTOR SEARCHES

Weapons (which include butter knives, art supplies, and defensive spray) account for only an estimated 1% of items confiscated through mandatory metal detector searches. Only 0.08% of mandatory metal detector searches conducted revealed a weapon of any sort. Almost all weapons found in LAUSD were found through other means: 94% of weapons found in LAUSD were found by other types of searches.



To truly improve school safety: LAUSD must have policies and practices that respect students' civil rights, improve school climate, and build a community of trust between students, families, and school staff.

LAUSD MUST:

- ✓ **Eliminate the mandatory metal detector search policy.**
- ✓ **Implement the School Climate Bill of Rights faithfully** and integrate restorative justice practices and school-wide positive behavioral interventions and supports (SWPBIS). These practices are proven to help increase the trust between students and staff and focus on repairing harm when tensions arise on campus.
- ✓ **Equip schools with appropriate programming and staffing** to promote safety and social and emotional well-being, including increasing counselors, psychiatric social workers, and community intervention workers.