

Transcript for Video

Hello GCSD families!

Due to recent events in our schools and in our community, we have been revisiting our safety procedures for school arrival. We want to be sure that we are implementing efficient and effective methods to ensure safety in our schools without overwhelming our teachers and staff members who are called on to fulfill these duties.

The week prior to Fall Break, we ran a combination of metal detector checks and weapon detection checks at all entrances of all middle and high schools in our district. We were monitoring the efficiency and effectiveness of these procedures to plan for sustainability. As a result, we will be making the following adjustments for the week our students return to school beginning October 16th.

We will be implementing strictly weapons detection checks at all entrances of middle and high schools using our OPENGATE Technology equipment. By using these devices, instead of our metal detector walkthroughs, we should be able to move students through more quickly using considerably fewer staff members to do it. We will need your help to ensure this new process moves as efficiently as possible.

As students approach their school entrance, they will need to remove their laptops, 3-ring binders that have metal rings, and cell phones and place them on the table. They will then walk through the OPENGATE Weapon Detection system while carrying their book bags. As long as there are no weapons or large metal objects in the book bag, the student will be able to then claim their belongings off the table and move on to class. If there is an alert as the student passes through, they will be moved to a secondary check station where there will be a thorough check to determine what is causing the alert. Parents, please speak with your students and have them check their book bags thoroughly to remove any metal objects before returning to school on October 16th. If we take the time to do this now, arriving at school and passing through the checkpoints should be much more efficient.

Parents, we also need your support in one other way ... ensuring that students arrive at school on time. As we were monitoring processes last week, our principals at several different campuses noted that students began arriving at school later - either driving themselves or being dropped off by someone. It appears that the thought was that they could be late because they would get a tardy pass due to the metal detector checks. Principals noted that students were tardy, not because they were getting

bogged down at the check stations, but because they were arriving much later to school. By switching exclusively to the OPENGATE Weapons Detection checks, there will be no need to issue tardy passes. Students who arrive late to class will be issued tardy consequences so we encourage everyone to adjust your morning routines by 5 to 10 minutes as we return to school on October 16th as everyone adjusts to our new morning procedures.

We apologize for any inconvenience but we are attempting to make our campuses safer. With all of us working collaboratively together, we are more likely to accomplish this goal. District staff and school administrators will be monitoring these new procedures throughout the week to help ensure we are as efficient, and safe, as possible. Thank you for your understanding!