

Metal Detectors in Chicago Public Schools



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Metal Detectors are Present in Many Schools

Metal detectors have been implemented in schools en masse in the 1980s in an effort to keep the “outside” from entering the school

In 2015–16, 94 percent of public schools control access to school buildings

Metal detectors are in about 10% of schools nationwide (CPS, LAUSD, NY)



Metal Detectors Cause Many Problems, But Are Still Widely Used

Infringes on 4th Amendment rights

Poor students of color are more subject to harsh disciplinary measures than their wealthy white counterparts

Schools → Prisons

Question: If metal detectors have proved to cause so many problems, why are they present in so many schools? - Corporate greed

Research Question

Do companies that produce metal detectors attempt to influence politicians in ways that would increase the presence of metal detectors in schools?



<http://www.ceia-usa.com>



<https://www.thestreet.com/story/13688657/1/corrections-corp-of-america-stock-value-play-or-value-trap.htm>

Chicago as the Perfect Case Study

3rd largest school district, majority of schools have metal detectors

Disproportionately students of color; highly segregated school system

Below national standards

Known for political corruption and corporate reform efforts in schools



<https://www.timeout.com/chicago>



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tilden_High_School_\(Chicago\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tilden_High_School_(Chicago))

Foucauldian Genealogical Approach

Difference between current justification and true reason for implementation

Which brands and protocol are most prevalent in the CPS system

Funding and donation history

Ties between politicians and the corporations



Rahm Emanuel, Mayor of Chicago

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/politics/ct-met-mayor-rahm-emanuel-chicago-budget-speech-20171018-story.html>



Janice K. Jackson, CPS CEO

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-met-chicago-school-sexual-misconduct-investigation-20180523-story.html>

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