



Every child. Every opportunity. Every time.

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Statement from Kalamazoo Public Schools

On Friday, October 16, 2026, a student at Kalamazoo Central High School made a very poor choice by bringing a loaded weapon concealed in a backpack into the building.

Today, numerous media outlets are reporting on this incident and citing the Kalamazoo Township Police Department's incident report. The report states that during the student's interview, the student said they went through the weapon detectors; they went off, and his bag was searched, but the weapon was not found.

This contradicts Kalamazoo Public Schools' investigation. Video evidence indicates that when the student entered the school, the weapon detection system did not alert; thus, a secondary search was not conducted.

Kalamazoo Public Schools superintendent Dr. Darrin Slade said, "It is important to remember that a student's interview with law enforcement is simply an interview. We wanted to ensure a complete and thorough investigation before communicating further. I want to commend the student who reported the weapon. I'd also like to commend the Kalamazoo Central staff and the School Resource Officer for following proper procedures to safely secure the weapon."

In 2025, Kalamazoo Public Schools installed weapon detectors at all of our secondary schools. Weapon detection systems are one layer of our safety and security practices. KPS has a comprehensive safety plan for every building and is one of the few school districts in the state to have weapon detection systems in every secondary school.

Everyone in our school community helps maintain a safe environment. On Friday, a Kalamazoo Central student shared information about a gun in the building with an adult, who alerted the school administration. Law enforcement searched the backpack of the identified student in a secure location and discovered the weapon.

This incident reminds everyone: if you see something, say something. OK2SAY is a program that lets students confidentially report tips about potential harm or criminal activity. The reports can be made by texting OK2SAY (652729), calling 8-555-OK2SAY (855-565-2729), or using the tip form found at ok2say.state.mi.us

Kalamazoo Public Schools will host a meeting on Wednesday, October 28, at 5:00 p.m. in Kalamazoo Central's auditorium to discuss safety and security practices.

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