

SECURITY CAMERAS IN SCHOOLS

The School Committee works to maintain a safe and secure environment for its students, staff, visitors, and facilities. Security means more than having locks and making certain that doors are locked at the proper times. Security also means minimizing fire hazards, reducing the possibility of faulty equipment, keeping records and valuables in a safe place, protection against vandalism and burglary, the prosecution of vandals, and developing crisis plans.

School facilities and their contents, constitute one of the greatest investments of the community. The School Committee believes it to be in the best interest of students and taxpayers for the district to exert every reasonable means to protect the investment adequately.

In pursuit of this objective, the School Committee authorizes the use of security cameras in school district buildings and on its property to ensure the health, welfare and safety of all students, staff and visitors, to deter theft, vandalism and other negative behavior, to safeguard district buildings, grounds and equipment, and to monitor unauthorized individuals in or on school property. Security cameras may be used in locations as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent of Schools in consultation with school officials as well as local law enforcement and emergency response agencies. They may be used in any area, inside or outside of school buildings where there is no reasonable expectation of privacy.

The district shall notify students and staff through student and employee handbooks that security cameras have been installed and may be used at any time. Students or staff identified on security cameras in violation of School Committee policies will be subject to disciplinary action.

The Superintendent shall ensure that proper procedures are in place and are followed regarding use, viewing, disclosure, retention, disposal and security of video recordings or photographs from security cameras in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. A video recording used for security purposes in school district buildings and/or on school property shall be the sole property of the school district. All video recordings will be stored in their original format and secured to avoid tampering and to ensure confidentiality in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Access to video recordings from security cameras shall be limited to school administrators (Superintendent/designee, School Principal/designee). Law enforcement and emergency response officials shall be granted access to video recordings or the security system after giving prior notice to the School Superintendent/designee.

The Superintendent may, from time to time, issue further guidance that is consistent with current laws and this policy.

SOURCE: MASC

Adopted: August, 2015

PROCEDURES FOR SECURITY CAMERAS IN SCHOOLS

Viewing/Monitoring of Live Images from Security Cameras

1. In applicable locations, a monitor will be placed to enable office staff to observe points of access to the building.
2. The Superintendent, building administrators and others designated by the Superintendent may monitor security camera images on a periodic or random basis for school-related purposes.
3. In situations when the School Department's Comprehensive Emergency Plan is implemented and/or there is an immediate security risk, law enforcement officials may be authorized to view images from school security cameras at the school or their own monitors at other locations where such access is feasible.

Viewing of Security Camera Recordings

1. The Superintendent, building administrators and others designated by the Superintendent may review security camera recordings for school-related purposes. Other school personnel may be authorized to view recordings by the Superintendent or a building administrator if there is a legitimate reason to do so.
2. Any security camera recording used for student disciplinary purposes will only be disclosed as authorized by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and in accordance with Board policy.
3. The parents/guardians of a student or an eligible student under FERPA may request to view portions of the security camera recording used as a basis for disciplinary action against that student. Viewing of the security camera recording shall be conducted in the presence of a building administrator and shall be conducted in a manner that does not violate the confidentiality rights of other students.
4. Law enforcement personnel may review security camera recordings, when available, to investigate possible criminal conduct.
5. Unauthorized access and viewing of security camera recordings is prohibited.

Storage and Security of Security Camera Recordings

1. All security camera recordings will be stored in a secure location to ensure confidentiality.
2. Security camera footage will be stored for 30 days.
3. Recordings related to a disciplinary matter will be maintained in their original form until the matter is resolved.