

ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE

The Board of Education recognizes that video surveillance is occasionally necessary for the purposes of promoting school safety. Section 74.01 of the School Act, authorizes the use of video surveillance cameras on School District property and school buses for the purposes of enhancing the safety of students, staff, volunteers and the general public, protecting property, and deterring vandalism, violence and destructive acts.

The School District also recognizes the importance of personal privacy in our community, and supports the use of surveillance in a manner that minimizes encroachments upon the privacy of students, staff, volunteers and the general public. Accordingly, the use and operation of video surveillance within the School District will be subject to privacy considerations and applicable statutory limits and requirements.

1. Notice to Students and Parents

If a surveillance camera is to be used within a school facility or on school land, the Board will provide notice of its plans to the applicable Parent Advisory Council. In accordance with and as required under Section 74.01 of the School Act, the Board must obtain the approval of the Parent Advisory Council before proceeding with implementation of the surveillance system, unless the system is temporary for a specific investigative purpose.

The School District will advise students and parents that an electronic surveillance system is in place on the School District school buses or premises. On any bus equipped for electronic surveillance students will be advised verbally by the driver. Where cameras are in place on school premises signs must be clearly written and prominently displayed to notify the public of video surveillance.

2. Privacy and Access to Cameras

Video surveillance is not to be used in locations where appropriate confidential or private activities/functions are routinely carried out (e.g. washrooms, private conference/meeting rooms)

Only the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent or Secretary Treasurer (Senior Leadership Team – “SLT”) have the authority to grant access to view the recordings. Any request to view a recording must include a specific time frame and rationale and must be authorized by the SLT.

3. Security

- a. Video cameras will be installed only by a designated employee or service provider of the School District.
- b. Only persons authorized by the SLT will have access to the system's controls and recording equipment, and the Board will limit such access to those with a need to exercise such access.
- c. A log of all instances of access to and use of recording will be maintained.
- d. Recorded images will be stored in a secure location in each school, and can only be accessed remotely by personnel authorized by the SLT.
- e. Recorded images must never be sold, publicly viewed or distributed except as provided under this policy or as permitted under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act or other applicable laws.

4. Viewing of Recordings

- a. Only persons authorized by the SLT will have access to the surveillance videos. Any parent or legal guardian is entitled to view a recording which includes his or her child/children. Any request to view a recording must include a rationale and specific time frame, limited to less than 6 hours. This duration can be appealed to the Superintendent.
- b. Students may view segments of the recording relating to themselves if they are capable of exercising their own access to information rights under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. A student, parent or guardian has the right to request an advocate to be present. Viewing may be refused or limited where viewing would be an unreasonable invasion of a third party's personal privacy, would give rise to a concern for a third party's safety, or any other ground recognized in the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.
- c. Viewing will only take place at a designated location on appointment with the appropriate School District representative.
- d. Recordings shall not be shown to anyone other than School District staff, or the parents/guardians of the students involved, or the students themselves. Only School District staff with a direct involvement with the contents of the specific recording shall be permitted to view the recording.

5. Retention of Recordings

- a. On buses the recordings shall be overwritten as the hard drive reaches capacity unless they are being retained at the request of the Assistant Superintendent responsible for Operations, the driver or parent/guardian for documentation related to a specific incident, or for the School District's insurers where an incident raises a prospect of a legal claim against the School District.
- b. The Board reserves the right to use or share video tape for the purposes of investigation into any incident occurring on School District property, in connection with legal claims or the possible violation of laws. Video footage may, where appropriate, be shared with the School District's insurers or legal advisors, or used as evidence in legal proceedings.
- c. In school recorded images will be erased within 15 days, unless they are being retained as documentation related to a specific incident, or are being transferred to the Board's insurers or legal advisors.
- d. Recorded images that are retained by the Board after 15 days will only be retained as necessary to fulfill the purposes for which it has been retained, subject to the record retention requirements under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and other applicable laws.

6. Review

- a. The Superintendent (or designate) is responsible for the proper implementation and control of the surveillance system and an annual review of the surveillance system to ensure that this administrative procedure is being adhered to.