



VIDEO SURVEILLANCE AND ELECTRONIC MONITORING

Purpose:

The Maynard Public Schools authorizes the use of video surveillance and electronic monitoring equipment at various school sites throughout the District and on school buses. The video surveillance/electronic monitoring equipment shall be used to protect school property and assets from theft and vandalism, through deterrence and video documentation. The system is not designed nor intended to protect individuals from being victims of violent or property crimes, nor to detect other potentially illegal and undesirable activities that may occur, although information may be used as evidence in such cases.

Deployment:

The Superintendent or his designees are responsible for approving where and when to install and operate fixed-location video surveillance/electronic monitoring equipment in the District. The determination of where and when to use video surveillance/electronic monitoring equipment will be made in a nondiscriminatory manner. Video surveillance/electronic monitoring equipment may be placed in common areas in school buildings (e.g., school hallways, entryways, the front office where students, employees and visitors are permitted to freely come and go, gymnasiums, cafeterias, libraries), the school parking lots and other outside areas, and in school buses. Except in extraordinary circumstances and with the written authorization of the Superintendent, video surveillance/electronic monitoring equipment shall not be used in areas where persons have a reasonable expectation of privacy (e.g., restrooms, locker rooms, changing areas). The Superintendent shall carefully consider and consult with District legal counsel before authorizing placement in, private offices (unless there is express consent given by the office occupant), or conference/meeting rooms, or in individual classrooms during instructional times.

Preservation of Equipment

Any person who takes action to block, move, or alter the location and/or viewing angle of a video camera or who vandalize, damage, disable, or render inoperable surveillance cameras and equipment shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action and referral to appropriate law enforcement authorities.

Public Notice of Video Policy

Visible and legible signs shall be placed at the main entrances to buildings and in district vehicles, including school buses, to notify students, staff, and visitors that video or digital

cameras may be in use in school buildings and on buses. Parents and students shall also be notified through the student handbook that cameras may be in use in school buildings, on school grounds and in school vehicles. Students and others will be held responsible for any violations of school rules or laws recorded by the cameras. Additionally, the Superintendent is directed to annually notify parents and students via school newsletters and the Student Handbook, and staff of the use of video surveillance/electronic monitoring systems in their schools.

Use, Retention and Access to Video

Any information obtained from video surveillance/electronic monitoring systems may only be used to support the orderly operation of the School District's schools and facilities, and for law enforcement purposes, and not for any other purposes. As such, recordings obtained through the use of video surveillance/electronic monitoring equipment may be used as evidence in any disciplinary proceedings, administrative proceeding or criminal proceeding, subject to Maynard Public Schools policy and regulations. Further, such recordings may become a part of a student's education record or staff member's personnel file.

Ordinarily video surveillance/electronic monitoring equipment will not be used to make an audio recording of conversation occurring on school grounds or property.

The Maynard Public Schools will not use video to obtain information for the purpose of routine staff appraisal/evaluation or monitoring.

Recordings of students will be treated as confidential, to the extent allowed by law. Copies of video recordings containing personally identifiable information about students shall not be released except as required or authorized by law. Parents or guardians of minor students, and students who are eighteen (18) years of age or older, who are charged with disciplinary violations may view relevant portions of any video recording related to the charge, upon written request to the building principal, provided that viewing the recording does not violate State and/or Federal law (i.e., the privacy rights of any other students whose images appear on the recording). Likewise, school personnel may view relevant portions of any video relating to any disciplinary charge against them, upon written request to the building principal, provided that viewing the recording does not violate State and/or Federal law (i.e., the privacy rights of any students whose images appear on the recording). Absent a clear legal obligation, confidential recordings will only be released through subpoena or court order.

The Maynard Public Schools shall maintain video surveillance/electronic monitoring recordings for a limited period. Any request to view a recording under this policy must be made within seven (7) days of the event/incident. Unless an investigation is being conducted, recordings may be destroyed after thirty (30) days. If, however, action is taken by the Maynard Public Schools/administration, as a result of a formal complaint or incident, recordings shall be kept for a minimum of one (1) year from the date of the action taken. Recordings may also be kept beyond the normal retention period if they are going to be utilized for training purposes.

This policy does not address or cover instances where school officials or other individuals record a specific event (e.g., a play, music performance, athletic contest, graduation, video teleconferencing, Town Meeting or Maynard Public Schools meeting), or an isolated instance where a classroom is videotaped for educational or research purposes. Authorized videotaping surveillance/electronic monitoring equipment to be used for educational, instructional and/or research purposes is permitted and is not addressed by this policy.

The Superintendent is directed to develop administrative guidelines to address the use of video surveillance/electronic monitoring equipment in school buildings, school buses and on property owned and/or operated by the Maynard Public Schools.

Video surveillance is to be implemented in accordance with this policy and the related guidelines. The Maynard Public Schools will not accept or tolerate the improper use of video surveillance/electronic monitoring equipment and will take appropriate action in any cases of wrongful use of this policy.

Date Approved: 05/29/14

Legal References: FERPA, 20 U.S.C. 1232g

Cross Reference: 34 C.F.R. 99.1-99.67

Title I of the Electronic Communication Privacy Act of 1986

18 U.S.C. 2510-2521
