

## **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, protecting against vandalism and burglary, prosecuting vandals, and developing crisis plans.

School facilities and their contents, constitute one of the most significant investments of the community. The 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 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, and to safeguard district buildings, grounds and equipment. Security cameras may be used in locations as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent 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 and appropriate signage that security cameras have been installed and may be used at any time.

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 District buildings and/or on school property shall be the sole property of the 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 designated District and school administrators. In general, in order to protect privacy, camera footage will not be shared with parents or students, except as may be required by state and federal law. Should disclosure of a video recording be required, the Superintendent shall ensure that all video images of any student or other minor individual are blurred to render those individuals unidentifiable. Except in an emergency, law enforcement and emergency response officials shall be granted access to video recordings or the security system after giving prior notice to the Superintendent or designee.

The Superintendent may, from time to time, issue further guidance that is consistent with current laws and this policy. The District's specific procedures are posted on the District website.

CROSS REF.: [Memorandum of Agreement Between the Wellesley Public Schools, the Wellesley Police Department and the Norfolk County District Attorney's Office](#)