

SECTION: OPERATIONS

TITLE: USE OF VIDEO SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

ADOPTED: September 14, 2015

REVISED:

ST. MARYS AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

816. USE OF VIDEO SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS	
1. Purpose SC 510	<p>The Board of School Directors and school officials recognize the need to provide a safe learning environment for students and staff and to protect district property and equipment.</p> <p>Video cameras shall be used to discourage acts of misbehavior and to identify the cause of inappropriate behavior. Cameras are not monitored on a twenty-four (24) hour basis. Audio taping of students and staff shall conform to Pennsylvania and federal wiretapping laws.</p>
2. Authority	<p>The Board recognizes the district's continuing responsibility to maintain and improve discipline, and ensure the health, welfare and safety of its staff and students on school transportation vehicles and school district property.</p> <p>Video cameras may be used to monitor student behavior on school transportation vehicles transporting students to and from curricular and extracurricular activities. In case of theft or vandalism to the equipment, the contractor is responsible to repair equipment.</p>
3. Guidelines	<p>Video recordings may be used as a basis for any disciplinary action for any violation of law and/or school rules. Further, video recordings may be furnished to police in regard to possible criminal violations.</p> <p>The use of video surveillance cameras and equipment by the district shall in no way place any duty on the district to regularly monitor live images and/or videotapes, and it shall not place on the district any additional duty in regard to providing a safe facility.</p> <p><u>Video Monitoring On School Property</u></p> <p>School building and grounds may be equipped with video monitoring devices. Cameras placed outside shall be positioned only where it is necessary to protect external assets or to provide for the personal safety of individuals on school grounds or premises.</p>

	<p>Signs advising students, staff and the general public of the presence of video surveillance equipment should notify individuals of the area in which surveillance is conducted.</p> <p>The Board or its administrators may use video surveillance in and/or about district property and may use the resulting recordings for inquiries and proceedings related to law enforcement, deterrence, and disciplinary actions.</p> <p>Recordings shall not be disclosed except in accordance with this policy and are not for public viewing. Disclosure of video records shall be for the safety and security of all, the protection of district property, to detect or deter criminal offenses, for disciplinary reasons and the enforcement of school rules. Tapes will be viewed only under the direct supervision of the building administration or the Superintendent.</p> <p>All audio taping shall be consistent with state and federal laws.</p> <p><u>Video Monitoring on School Buses</u></p> <p>The district may approve the equipping of school buses with video monitoring devices for monitoring student behavior.</p> <p>Video monitoring equipment shall be in operation as determined necessary by the district to monitor student behavior or the action of bus drivers.</p> <p>The district shall be responsible to audit the use and security of surveillance cameras, including monitors and tapes.</p> <p>Students shall be informed by the building principal at the beginning of each school year that the Board may be recording student behavior on school buses and the purpose of such practices.</p> <p>All audio taping shall be consistent with state and federal laws.</p> <p>References:</p> <p>School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 510</p>
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