

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY: VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

DATE ADOPTED: November 15, 2022

POLICY STATEMENT

The district recognizes its responsibility to maintain safety, and discipline on school grounds. The Colchester School District may use video surveillance systems (including audio) to monitor and record activity on district property to improve and protect the health, welfare, safety, and security of the entire school community. The policy applies to all employees, students, vendors, contractors, visitors, and property of the Colchester School District.

IMPLEMENTATION

The school board authorizes the installation and use of video cameras in public areas on campus, such as (but not limited to) hallways, auditoriums, lobbies, the cafeteria, and school grounds including the parking lot, sidewalks, playing fields, school buses, district vans, and other school grounds. Individuals, including students who are in such areas do not have a reasonable expectation of privacy. The district shall not install video surveillance systems in areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy such as inside restrooms, changing rooms or locker rooms.

Video surveillance systems may be used to promote the safety, security, protection of property, and to assist school administrators in investigating conduct that may violate the policies of the Colchester School District or law. Such video recording may be conducted without prior notice and without student or parent consent. Video surveillance systems may be operational at any time, regardless of whether school is in session or if facilities or buildings are in use.

The use of video recordings from surveillance equipment shall be subject to the other policies of the district, including the policies concerning directory information and confidentiality of student and personnel records.

The district shall notify its students and staff annually that video surveillance may occur on school property. The district shall incorporate the notice in the Student Handbook, on the district's website, and/or in a separate mailing to students. The district shall post a notice at the main entrance of each school district building where video surveillance is in effect.

Employees and students are prohibited from unauthorized use, tampering with, or otherwise interfering with video recordings or surveillance equipment. Violations will be subject to

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appropriate disciplinary action. Disciplinary action shall be consistent with district policy and regulations and may include, but not be limited to, written reprimand, suspension, demotion or dismissal for staff and suspension and/or expulsion for students, depending upon the nature and severity of the situation.

The use of video surveillance equipment on school grounds and on other district property shall be supervised and controlled by the building administrator or their designee. Video surveillance systems may be used for live, day and night viewing of buildings and grounds by the Superintendent or designee. At no time should students, employees, parents and/or community members have any expectation that anyone is monitoring events on the surveillance cameras as they occur. Nor should they assume that someone will immediately respond to an incident in progress. All incidents of concern need to be reported immediately to the administration.

The district retains the right to use video recordings in student disciplinary hearings and employee personnel hearings. Subject to Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA) and federal and state law.