

SECURITY CAMERAS AND VIDEO RECORDINGS

The Albemarle County School Board authorizes the use of security cameras as a tool for recording activity on School Board property to further protect the health, welfare, and safety of students, staff, and visitors. The use of security cameras is a valuable deterrent to inappropriate behavior and is a significant factor in protecting school division assets. This system shall not replace the services of the School Resource Officer within the school. School administrators shall ensure that due diligence is observed in maintaining general campus security.

Use of Information Collected

Security camera recordings may be used for inquiries and proceedings related to law enforcement, student, and employee hearings. Video used as evidence for law enforcement purposes may not be altered.

Video recordings of students produced by the division security cameras in the school and on the school bus may be considered part of a student's educational record and therefore, viewing of a video must adhere to regulations of the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Virginia Code 22.1-287.

A video recording of athletic events, concerts and plays does not hold the same confidentiality because they are public events and therefore can be shown. At the School Division's discretion, recordings of students that do not involve disciplinary or other confidential information, i.e., hallways, playgrounds, parking lots, etc., may be released without consent of the parties shown on the recording.

Camera Location, Operation and Control

Placement of security cameras is restricted to public areas. Cameras will not record areas where people have a reasonable expectation of privacy (e.g. change rooms and restrooms).

Areas chosen for camera placement shall be where security is necessary. Security cameras may be used for ongoing recording of building interior and exterior areas. These include, but are not limited to, parking lots, entrance and exit doors, and other specific interior areas identified by the principal that warrant recording. Several security cameras are located on the interiors of school buses. Recordings on buses may include both video and sound.

The security camera system may be in operation virtually 365 days a year and 24 hours per day. However, at the school division's discretion, video camera security may be suspended without notice. The school building security cameras will typically be recording in real-time continuously. The school bus security cameras do not have live feed access, but are recording continuously while the bus is in service.

Protection of Information and Disclosure

A. Authorization and Disclosure

Only the Chief Technology Officer or designee, Student Services Officer, School Resource Officers, Principal, Associate/Assistant Principals, Director and Deputy Director of Transportation or designees, and the Director and Deputy Director of Building Services shall have access to the recordings.

Local law enforcement may have immediate access to security camera video in the event of an emergency.

Security camera video may be disclosed to school administrators for educational purposes, including student discipline matters.

If a video is used for disciplinary purposes, the video may be viewed by a student's parents or by the student if the student is 18 or older or is attending a post-secondary school (an eligible student) if the video solely features the student. When the video involves more than one student, the parents of other students in the video must waive their rights before the video can be viewed by the student being disciplined.

Unauthorized video disclosure by an employee may result in disciplinary actions.

B. Security and Retention of Recordings

Video recording of buildings or areas for security purposes shall be retained in a secure location and as required by the Library of Virginia retention schedules. The video will be disposed of unless it pertains to an audit, investigation, a risk management purpose, or litigation hold. Copies of security camera video preserved as evidence for student hearings will be made part of the student's education record. Copies of recordings of incidents subject to investigations, court cases, or due process hearings must be retained until resolved, or as otherwise indicated by the Library of Virginia retention schedule.

C. Notifications

When security cameras are installed at a school system location, signs shall be posted at the main entrance of the school building informing people that security cameras may be recording. Notices will be posted in the front interior of school buses.

Parents and students will be notified annually as part of ACPS FERPA required notifications.

D. Controlled Viewing

The video records shall be in a controlled access area, or a privacy screen should be utilized as needed to block public view of the video recordings.

Legal Reference:

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1230, 1232 g, 34 C.F.R. Part 99, as amended.

Code of Virginia § 18.2-386.1, as amended. Unlawful filming, videotaping or photographing of another.

Code of Virginia § 22.1-287, as amended. Scholastic Records.

Cross Reference: JO- Student Records

Joint Protocol for the Albemarle County Public Schools and the Albemarle County Police Department Regarding the School Resource Officer Program