

SECURITY CAMERAS IN SCHOOLS

The North Middlesex Regional 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, the prosecuting vandals, and developing crisis plans.

School facilities and their contents constitute one of the greatest investments of the community. The School 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 School Committee authorizes the use of security cameras in school district buildings and on its property to ensure the safety of all students, staff, and visitors, to deter theft, vandalism, and other negative behavior, to safeguard district buildings, grounds, and equipment, and to monitor unauthorized individuals in or on school property. Security cameras may be used in locations deemed appropriate by the Superintendent of Schools in consultation with school officials and local law enforcement and emergency response agencies. In addition, 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. Students or staff identified on security cameras in violation of School Committee policies will be subject to disciplinary action.

The Superintendent shall ensure that proper procedures are in place and are followed regarding the 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 school district buildings and/or on school property shall be the sole property of the school district. All video recordings will be stored in their original format and secured to avoid tampering and ensure confidentiality according to applicable laws and regulations. Access to video recordings from security cameras shall be limited to school district administrators. Law enforcement and emergency response officials may be granted access to video recordings or the security system after giving the Superintendent/designee prior notice.

The Superintendent may issue further guidance consistent with current laws and this policy.

SOURCE: MASC

Adopted by the NMRSD School Committee:

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