

Security Policy

The Newton School Committee is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all students, staff and visitors. Security, in the content of this policy, includes physical and emotional safety.

Threats to safety and security fall into two categories: emergency and non-emergency situations. These two categories necessitate different types of responses.

Immediate threats include events such as a bomb threat, a fire or a chemical spill, airborne hazards, and armed intruders. In these instances, a principal may order an evacuation, a lock-down, a shelter in place, or other immediate action. When time permits, the principal should consult with, and obtain the prior approval of, the Superintendent or designee before implementing a response. The principal should communicate the nature of the emergency and the response to all members of the school community as promptly as possible. In certain situations, appropriate emergency and/or law enforcement personnel may assume control of and responsibility for the response. For any immediate threat where law enforcement presence is required, law enforcement personnel shall have access to any security camera live feed and/or visually recorded data.

Non-emergency threats may be building-based, such as thefts, graffiti, or vandalism, or more general concerns, such as access to buildings. Before initiating either a building-based or multi-school measure, a principal shall set forth in writing (a) the exact nature of the problem; (b) the logical connection between the problem and any proposed solution; and (c) the possible unintended consequences of the solution. The measure may be implemented only after the approval of the Superintendent or designee.

All such measures shall be undertaken in consultation with appropriate law enforcement personnel, shall be limited in scope to address the problem at issue and shall be disclosed to the school community. By way of illustration, a building-based measure might include the installation of security cameras in a specific limited area of a building interior or exterior in a suspected crime or NPS Rights and Responsibilities Handbook violation. An example of a multi-building measure is the establishment and enforcement of appropriate procedures for controlling access to school buildings, with the understanding that the procedures (including sign-in protocols, use of identification badges for faculty and staff, installation of an exterior-facing security camera at a single unlocked entrance, and keyless entry methods) may vary depending on whether they are elementary, middle or high schools.

Additionally, permanent interior and exterior camera installations will be permitted in public areas at all schools. These installations will NOT be located in classrooms, office areas, locker rooms or bathrooms. The purpose of these installations is to monitor public areas to improve public safety of staff, students and visitors. The cameras will only monitor and record passage in and out of these areas. The recording, viewing and storage of the recorded data will follow the Protocol for Security Camera Recorded Data).

SOURCE: Newton

Protocol for Security Camera Visually Recorded Data

Security camera visually recorded data will be accessible in each building by authorized designees only.

Camera Placement:

Camera installations will only be located in public areas, such as hallways, athletic areas, large public gathering spaces, parking lots and public walkways. The purpose of these installations is to monitor public areas to provide a safe and secure environment for all students, staff and visitors. The cameras shall not be placed in areas where there may be a reasonable expectation of privacy (e.g. rest rooms, locker rooms, private offices, department offices, conference rooms, staff lounges).

Signage and Notification:

Signs will be posted in public entryways to the buildings and at other conspicuous locations informing persons that the building and grounds may be under video surveillance.

The posted signs will read: *Surveillance Cameras in Use*.

The District shall notify students, staff and the general public that video surveillance will occur on school property through use of the signage and other appropriate notifications including a notice in the student handbook.

Limited Access to Recordings:

- The Superintendent or his/her authorized designee shall oversee video surveillance.
- Only individuals authorized by the Superintendent or his/her designee may view the surveillance recordings.
- Police access will be determined in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding with the Newton Police Department.

Viewing:

- Reviewing the recordings will occur **only** when a suspected crime or NPS Rights & Responsibilities Handbook violation is committed inside or outside the building (e.g. vandalism, graffiti, etc.), or there is a claim of an injury or an incident that raises safety or security concerns.
- A log book shall include the following details; the persons viewing the data, what event triggered the viewing, the date/time viewed, what was found on the recording, whether the data was copied or forwarded, and what consequences were imposed as a result of the recorded information.
- Information obtained through video surveillance may only be used for disciplinary investigations, security, law enforcement purposes, or in the course of any legal action or legal investigation. . No sound is to be monitored or recorded in connection with the video surveillance system.
- Surveillance system misuse shall be addressed on a case-by-case basis by the District.

Short Term Data Storage:

- Security camera visually recorded data (with the exception of those segments that evidence a crime being committed or an NPS Rights & Responsibilities Handbook violation, or there is a claim of injury or an incident that raises safety or security concerns (within the 60 day retention period) will be maintained for a maximum of *sixty (60) school* days and then deleted. In no case shall NPS be held liable for the failure to maintain any recorded data for any period of time. All such recordings shall be treated as confidential and shall not be released to individuals or agencies outside of the District except through subpoena or other court order requiring such release.
- Any law enforcement agency may be provided with a duplicate of the recorded materials in conjunction with an investigation by that agency. Notification to the Superintendent's office shall take place for each duplication of data.

SOURCE: [City of Newton Online Policy Manual](#)