

CAMERAS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSROOMS

The Jefferson Parish School Board shall install and operate cameras that record both video and audio in each special education classroom, as required by state law, and in accordance with procedures promulgated by the Superintendent. The School Board shall verify periodically that the cameras remain in operation. Should a camera be out of operation for more than two (2) consecutive days, the school shall provide notice to parents of students in the affected classrooms via normal school communication channels.

APPLICABILITY

This policy is applicable to Self-contained Classrooms or Other Special Education Settings in which a majority of students in regular attendance are provided special education and related services and are assigned to one or more Self-contained Classrooms or Other Special Education Settings (classroom on another school campus that serves only students receiving special education and related services such as school for deaf/visually impaired) for at least fifty percent (50%) of the instructional day. This policy is not applicable to special education classrooms and other special education settings where the only students with exceptionalities receiving special education and related services are those identified as gifted or talented (under Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) Bulletin 1508, Pupil Appraisal Handbook) who have not been identified as also having a disability under Bulletin 1508 and served in special instructional settings for fifty percent (50%) of the day as described hereinabove.

PURPOSE

In accordance with La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§17:1948, 17:3996(B)(59), and 44.4.1(B)(9) as amended, the School Board adopts and implements this policy applicable to the installation and operation of audio/video recording cameras in certain special education classrooms, exceptions relative to public records; matters relative to funding and implementation; and other related matters. Audio/Video recording may be made available in certain Self-contained Classrooms and Other Special Education Settings for the purposes of promoting student safety in compliance with Louisiana law.

GENERAL

The Superintendent shall establish administrative procedures to implement this policy as required by law. The Superintendent shall designate an administrator (Designated District Representative) with responsibility for coordinating implementation of La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §17:1948 in accordance with School Board policy and procedures.

Advance written notice of audio/video recording will be provided, as applicable, to affected parents/legal guardians and staff. Such notice of audio/video recording shall be posted at affected schools.

The School Board expects staff to be vigilant in their observation and protection of all students. If a staff member suspects that an audio/video recording shows a violation of federal or state law, the mandatory reporter must report the suspected violation to the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) or the appropriate law enforcement agency in accordance with State law.

Audio/video recordings captured by the School Board will only be released for viewing to certain individuals as defined by Louisiana statute and the School Board's administrative procedures. Viewings of audio/video recordings shall be limited to the Superintendent or his designee(s) (designated district representative(s)), the parent or legal guardian of a recorded student, or law enforcement officials, as part of an investigation regarding suspected violations of State or federal laws. District personnel or contractors whose job duties involve installation, operation, or maintenance of the audio/video equipment or the retention of the recordings shall have access to the equipment and recordings only to the extent necessary to fulfill their assigned responsibilities. Continual monitoring of an audio/video feed is prohibited. Standing or on-going requests for viewing recordings are not authorized.

Audio/video recordings are confidential but are not considered personally identifiable information as defined in La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §17:3914. Audio/video recordings shall not be subject to public records requests. Specific exceptions, exemptions, and limitations to laws pertaining to public records are incorporated by reference into La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §17:1948. Audio/video recordings shall be stored in a safe and secure manner whether on on-site or off-site servers or in cloud storage.

In accordance with State law, the School Board will ensure retention of captured audio/video recordings for at least one (1) month after the recording date. The Superintendent and his designee(s) are authorized to dispose of recordings after a one-month period unless there is an outstanding request for viewing of the recording. No one has a right to obtain a copy of an audio/video recording except that a copy will be released at the request of the student's parent or guardian in a legal proceeding.

The School Board is authorized to accept, administer, and make use of federal, state, and local funds, any public and private grants and donation, and when appropriate, to accept nonmonetary resources in the form of services or equipment for use in connection with the installation and operation of audio/video cameras as described in administrative procedures. The use of *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) funds and State special education funds to implement the requirements of this policy is prohibited. Any installed cameras must be in compliance with the National Fire Protection Association's Life Safety Code.

Complaints related to audio/video recording, requests for audio/video recording, or use of audio/video recording shall be filed through the School Board's local grievance procedures (GAAB, Individuals with Disabilities; GAE, Non-title IX Complaints and

Grievances, JAA, Equal Educational Opportunities; JAB, Equal Opportunity)

New policy: November 18, 2021

Revised: December 7, 2022

Revised: November 2025

Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §17:1948; Board minutes, 11-18-21, 12-7-22.