

FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Security, Safety, and Emergency Procedures

Video Surveillance

This policy supersedes Policy 8614.2

I. PURPOSE

To protect the safety of students, employees, visitors, and property.

II. SUMMARY OF CHANGES SINCE LAST PUBLICATION

Section III. has been revised in its entirety to clarify the system's electronic policy, to codify existing practice of initiating temporary video surveillance when there is reasonable suspicion that a violation of policy or regulation has been committed in a particular location, and to extend the pilot program for video recording and live monitoring of cafeteria serving lines.

III. PHILOSOPHY

A. Ongoing Monitoring

The school system may install video cameras and other imaging devices to record images of building exteriors, warehouse areas, interior rooms and closets used for storage of valuable assets, and high-risk areas in administrative offices. It also may make video and sound recordings on school buses.

The School Board conducted pilot surveillance programs (including video recording and live monitoring) of cafeteria serving lines at the following schools during the 2008-09 school year: Annandale, Mount Vernon, and Westfield High Schools and Lake Braddock, Robinson, and South County Secondary Schools. This pilot shall be extended through the 2009-10 school year, so that staff members can gather additional data regarding the costs and benefits of cafeteria line surveillance and can compare the effectiveness of surveillance with other methods to deter theft and food tampering and to promote appropriate behavior. At the end of the pilot, staff members shall provide a report to the School Board about the results, including any recommendations for discontinuing, continuing, or expanding the cafeteria line surveillance program.

B. Reasonable Suspicion Monitoring

Temporary video monitoring or other imaging with visible or concealed recording devices may be initiated when there is reasonable suspicion that a violation of policy or regulation is occurring at a particular location. Such surveillance may be initiated only by individuals authorized to do so by regulation and only after a determination that such surveillance will be temporary and can be conducted in accordance with legal standards.

C. Safeguards—all video or other electronic surveillance

There will be no video or other electronic surveillance of private areas such as restrooms and locker rooms.

Regulations shall include provisions regarding the storage, security, retention, and destruction of digital surveillance images to ensure that use of them is consistent with law, reasonable, and protective of student privacy. No surveillance images shall be distributed outside the school system except as permitted by law or policy.

Employees and students shall be notified by regulation and signage that they may be subject to video surveillance or other imaging while on FCPS property.

Parents, guardians, and students shall be alerted to the cafeteria line video surveillance policy via school announcements at the beginning of the academic year and by clearly posted signage in the cafeteria and cafeteria serving lines.

Policy
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