

Medway Public Schools
Medway, MA

SCHOOL COMMITTEE POLICY

Policy # 64

Use of Security Technologies

It is the position of the Medway School Committee that all reasonable steps should be identified and undertaken to ensure the safety and fiscal welfare of the educational environment. The school committee recognizes that the use of video surveillance equipment can discourage security infractions and, therefore, promote the security and safety of the students.

The school committee approves the use of video cameras to support security initiatives in areas such as hallways; stairwells; parking lots; front offices where students, employees, and parents come and go; gymnasiums; cafeterias; supply rooms; and other appropriate locations. Video cameras may not be used in an area where there is a “reasonable expectation of privacy,” such as bathrooms, gym locker/changing areas, and private offices (unless consent by the office owner is given). With regard to security surveillance, the school committee does not approve the use of audio recording.

In most cases, the scenes from video cameras will not be monitored in real time. Electronic recordings may be reviewed by school administrators after an incident has occurred to assist them with an after-the-fact investigation. One possible exception is when a certain incident is expected at school during a finite time period. In these instances, administrators may actively monitor their video cameras’ outputs during this period so that they may immediately assess an incident in progress.

The school committee recognizes that only school district administrators have the authority and are solely responsible for establishing the consequences for incidents that occur on their campuses. In situations where unlawful events are recorded, electronic recordings will be viewed by the proper authorities and the consequences determined by those authorities.

Warning signs to inform the public and the school occupants that a facility employs video surveillance equipment for security purposes and that this equipment may or may not be monitored at any time should be posted in several prominent locations around the school.

First Reading: **August 5, 2004**

Adopted: **September 2, 2004**