

7441 ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS
AND ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

A. Purpose

The Board of Education finds that a safe and secure environment in school and school-related environments is necessary for pupils to learn and achieve high academic standards and that it is required to take reasonable steps to monitor these environments to ensure that safety and security. The Board also recognizes that these needs may sometimes conflict with respect for the rights of individual privacy.

B. Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Education of the Hopewell Valley Regional School District that electronic surveillance are a valid method for safeguarding school and school-related environments. Electronic surveillance technology will not be used to replace current policing and monitoring of school environments nor will it be utilized where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy.

C. Recording from Electronic Surveillance Feeds

Video recordings of pupils are subject to the Board policy regarding pupil photographs, and such video recordings shall be handled in accordance with policy. All electronic surveillance recordings shall be authorized by the Superintendent or designee. Recordings shall be made and maintained under the direction of the Administrator of Technology.

D. Usage

Electronic surveillance systems shall not target or observe individuals solely because of their race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability or other classification protected by law. Electronic surveillance systems may be used anywhere on Board property, including Board transportation, where there is no reasonable expectation of privacy. Electronic surveillance systems will not focus on hand bills, fliers, etc., being distributed or carried pursuant to First Amendment rights. Anyone who engages in the unauthorized use or misuse of electronic surveillance systems may be subject to criminal prosecution and/or administrative sanctions, including termination. All operators of the electronic surveillance systems shall sign a certification that they have read and understand this Video Surveillance Policy and acknowledge the potential criminal and/or administrative sanctions for unauthorized use or misuse of the electronic surveillance systems.

E. Retention

Video recordings shall be indexed, stored and maintained for a minimum of twenty calendar days after which time they will be recorded over or destroyed. Retention of any recording beyond that time limit must receive written approval of the Building Principal or Superintendent.

F. Public Notification

The Principal of each building shall be responsible for notifying and publicizing this policy. Appropriate signage indicating the presence of electronic surveillance systems in those areas where the systems are deployed (buildings, fields, buses, etc.) will be posted and maintained.

G. Audits

The Superintendent will conduct periodic audits, to ensure compliance with this Policy.