

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #33

Video Surveillance

Maine School Administrative District #33 permits the use of video cameras on school buses and in the public areas of school buildings, grounds, and other property including, but not limited to, hallways, stairwells, classrooms and other instructional areas, for the primary purpose of documenting disciplinary problems and vandalism, thereby reducing disciplinary problems and protecting school property. Video cameras will not be placed in restrooms, locker rooms, changing rooms or any other location prohibited by law. Videotapes shall not include an audio component.

The use of video surveillance equipment on school grounds and on other district property shall be supervised and controlled by the building principal or other responsible administrator.

Parents, students, and staff shall be notified in writing in the Student Handbook, staff handbook, or as otherwise determined appropriate by the District administration that video cameras will be used on school buses and property.

Students may be disciplined based in whole or in part on videotape evidence of misconduct. However, the videotapes shall not be maintained as a student record, except as such videotapes are used in the course of student disciplinary proceedings or for other good reason as determined by the Superintendent.

The videotapes shall not be available for viewing by the public, employees of the District in general, the media, or other individuals. Access to the videotapes shall be limited as follows:

1. School administrators and the School Board shall be authorized to view the videotapes for the purpose of documenting disciplinary problems of a student and in determining which student(s) may be involved.
2. A student subject to discipline based upon activities recorded on videotape, and/or the student's parent(s) or guardian(s), may view that segment of the videotape that documents the incident for which the student is being disciplined.
3. The Principal or Superintendent may authorize other school personnel, such as a teacher, guidance counselor, school psychologist, or social worker, to view segments of a videotape if such personnel have a demonstrable educational interest in the video/audio tape.
4. In appropriate circumstances, or as mandated by law or court order, the Superintendent is authorized to show a videotape to the District's legal counsel and to other government agencies, including law enforcement agencies or the Department of Human Services.
5. As otherwise provided by law.

The Superintendent is authorized to develop rules and regulations implementing this Policy.

Cautions: See U.S. Department of Justice, Video Cameras/Video Surveillance
at http://www.ncjrs.gov/school/ch2a_18.html

History: Adopted Meeting #848 November 05, 2007