

RIVERSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

No. 810.2

SECTION: OPERATIONS

TITLE: Transportation
Surveillance/Recordings

ADOPTED:

REVISED: November 14, 2022

810.1 TRANSPORTATION SURVEILLANCE RECORDINGS

Purpose

This policy authorizes the use of video and audio recording devices (herein sometimes called “cameras” or “recordings”) on school district buses and vehicles for discipline and security purposes. The school district’s use of cameras for recording audio and video shall be consistent with federal and state law.

Definitions

Official School District Purpose - means the safety and security of all persons on school district property, the protection of school district property, the detection or deterrence of criminal offenses on school district property, the monitoring of inappropriate conduct of students or staff for disciplinary purposes, the enforcement of school district policy, rules and procedures, and the protection against inappropriate conduct by others on school district property.

School Bus - means a motor vehicle that is designed to carry eleven (11) passengers or more, including the driver, and is used for the transportation of elementary or secondary school students to or from public, private or parochial schools or events related to such schools or school-related activities.[\[1\]](#)

School Vehicle - means a motor vehicle, except a motorcycle, designed for carrying no more than ten (10) passengers, including the driver, and used for the transportation of elementary or secondary school students to or from public, private or parochial schools or events related to such schools or school-related activities. The term includes vehicles having chartered, group and party rights under the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and used for the transportation of school children.[\[1\]](#)

Authority

The Pennsylvania School Code and the Pennsylvania Department of Education regulations grant school boards authority to adopt and enforce reasonable rules and regulations as the Board may deem necessary and proper regarding the management of its school affairs and the conduct and department of all employees and pupils attending the district schools including the time necessarily spent in coming to and returning from school. The Wiretap and Electronic Surveillance Act – 18. Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 5704 authorizes the interception of oral communications for disciplinary or security purposes on a school bus or school vehicle, as those terms are defined in 75 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 102 (relating to definitions), if certain conditions set forth in the Act are met.[\[1\]\[2\]](#)

Guidelines

The Pennsylvania School Code and the Pennsylvania Department of Education regulations grant school boards authority to adopt and enforce reasonable rules and regulations as the Board may deem necessary and proper regarding the management of its school affairs and the conduct and department of all employees and pupils attending the district schools including the time necessarily spent in coming to and returning from school. The Wiretap and Electronic Surveillance Act – 18. Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 5704 authorizes the interception of oral communications for disciplinary or security purposes on a school bus or school vehicle, as those terms are defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102 (relating to definitions), if certain conditions set forth in the Act are met.[\[1\]\[2\]](#)

School buses and school vehicles may be equipped with video and audio recording cameras.

The use of video and audio recording cameras on school district school buses and school vehicles supports efforts to maintain discipline and to ensure the security of all students, staff and others being transported on school buses or school vehicles.

Video and audio recordings may be used for any purpose authorized by law and specifically as a basis for disciplinary action for violations of law, Board policy and/or school district rules and procedures.

The Board or its administrators may review the video and audio recordings and may use them for all lawful purposes including but not limited to (1) investigation of misconduct or other incidents, (2) as evidence in administrative hearings (including informal and formal student hearings), arbitrations, mediations, or court proceedings and (3) law enforcement matters.

All video and audio recordings may be furnished to police in regard to possible criminal violations.

The use of video and audio cameras and recordings shall not place a duty on the school district to regularly monitor live camera images and/or video or audio recordings, and it shall not place on the school district any additional duty in regard to providing a safe facility.

The school district shall comply with federal and state law and regulations regarding maintenance, use, access, review and disclosure of video and audio recordings to the extent that the recordings are regarded as student educational records.[3][4]

Except as otherwise required by law, video and audio recordings shall not be disclosed and are not intended to be available for public access and review. Recordings will be reviewed only under the direct supervision of the building administration or school district administration or the Superintendent. Disclosure of video and audio recordings shall be for an Official School District Purpose as herein defined.

The installation of cameras on school buses and school vehicles is not intended to replace the responsibility

of bus drivers to monitor, correct or report student or other passenger behavior issues as required under other school district policies, manuals and procedures. Bus drivers shall be familiar with the operation of the cameras and shall be responsible to report any damage or malfunction.

Cameras that are equipped for audio recording shall comply with Section 5704 of the Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance Control Act (18 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 5704) (herein called the Act) in the following respects:[\[2\]](#)

1. This policy has been adopted to allow audio and video recordings on school buses or school vehicles for disciplinary or security purposes. On each school bus and each school vehicle that is furnished with audio and video recording cameras, a notice shall be posted that is clearly visible informing students, drivers and other passengers that the vehicle is equipped with an audio and video recording camera.[\[2\]](#)
2. This policy is posted on the district's publicly accessible website.[\[2\]](#)[\[5\]](#)
3. Each school year, this policy is included in the student handbook and in any other district publication that sets forth the comprehensive rules, procedures and standards of conduct.[\[2\]](#)

Legal

1. 75 Pa. C.S.A. 102

2. 18 Pa. C.S.A. 5704

3. Pol. 113.4

4. Pol. 216

5. 24 P.S. 510.2

24 P.S. 510

Pol. 218

Pol. 810

