Note: Unless otherwise noted, the terms “video recording,” “video surveillance,” and “video monitoring” shall also include any associated audio recordings. In addition, the term “classroom” shall also include other special education settings subject to video and audio recording required by law.

To promote student safety, the District shall comply with requests for video and audio monitoring of certain self-contained special education classrooms and settings as required by law to promote student safety in those settings. Regular or continual monitoring of video recordings shall be prohibited. Video recordings shall not be used for teacher evaluation or monitoring or for any purpose other than the promotion of student safety.

The Executive Director of the Office of Special Education or other person designated by the Superintendent is responsible for coordinating the provision of equipment to campuses in compliance with the law.

The Superintendent shall ensure that administrative regulations are developed to implement this policy.

Requests and Notice

For Following Year

A parent, Trustee, or staff member making a request of a student receiving special education services and whose placement for the following school year will be in a self-contained classroom eligible for video surveillance under this policy shall submit the request in writing that a video camera be placed in the classroom by the end of the current school year or by the tenth business day after the student's admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee determines the student's placement, whichever is later. If such a request is made, the campus shall begin operation of the camera by the deadlines in law.

For Current Year

Written requests from a parent, assistant principal on a form provided by the District, and principal, staff member, or the Board shall be submitted and processed in accordance with the procedures in law.

Response

As required by law, the District shall provide a response to the requestor within ten District business days after receipt of the request and either authorize the request or state the reason for denying the request.

Notice

Before a camera is activated, the principal shall provide advance written notice to staff on the campus and to parents of the students assigned to or engaging in school activities in the classroom or setting that video and audio surveillance will be conducted in the classroom.
Installation and Operation

The classroom subject to the request shall begin operation of video surveillance not later than the time frames required in law, except when the District is granted an extension of time.

When the District has installed video cameras in a classroom or other setting as required by law, the District shall operate the cameras during the instructional day at all times when one or more students are in the classroom or other setting. For purposes of this policy, the instructional day shall be defined as the portion of a school day during which instruction is taking place in the classroom or other setting.

For the school year in which a campus receives a request for video and audio surveillance, the campus shall continue to operate and maintain any video cameras placed in the classroom or other setting for as long as the classroom or other setting continues to satisfy the requirements in Education Code 29.022(a). However, the campus may discontinue operation of the video camera during the year if the requester withdraws the request in writing and no request is submitted to continue the surveillance. Before a camera is deactivated, the principal shall provide advance written notice to staff on the campus and to parents of the students assigned to or engaging in school activities in the classroom that video and audio surveillance will be discontinued in the classroom and of the opportunity to request continued video and audio surveillance.

Video cameras must be capable of recording video and audio of all areas of the classroom or setting, including a room attached to the classroom used for time out as defined by law. No visual monitoring, other than incidental coverage, except that no video surveillance shall be conducted of the inside of a bathroom or other area used for toileting or diapering a student or removing or changing a student’s clothes.

The District shall post notice at the entrance to a classroom or other setting in which video cameras are placed stating that video and audio surveillance is conducted in that classroom or setting.

Retention of Recordings

Video recordings shall be retained for at least six three months after the date of the recording but may be retained for a longer period in accordance with the District’s records management program or as required by law. [See CPC]

Confidentiality of Recordings

Video recordings made in accordance with this policy shall be confidential and shall only be accessed released or viewed by the
individuals and in the limited circumstances permitted by law. Contractors and District personnel with job duties related to the installation, operation, or maintenance of video equipment, or the retention of video recordings, who incidentally view recordings when performing regular job duties such as ensuring the proper functioning of the equipment or pulling specific footage shall not be considered in violation of the confidentiality provisions. The following individuals shall have authority to view video recordings to the extent permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

1. A District employee or a parent of a student who is involved in an alleged incident documented by a recording for which a complaint has been reported to the District;

2. Appropriate Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) personnel as part of an investigation of alleged abuse or neglect of a child;

3. A peace officer, school nurse, District administrator trained in de-escalation and restraint techniques, or human resource Talent Office staff member in response to a complaint report of an alleged incident or an investigation of an incident or a report of alleged abuse committed by a student; and

4. Appropriate Texas Education Agency or State Board for Educator Certification personnel or their agents as part of an investigation.

For purposes of this policy, the term “human resource Talent Office staff member” shall include the Superintendent, a principal, an assistant principal or other campus administrator, and any supervisory position within the District's human resources Talent Office, as approved by the Chief Talent Officer. If an individual listed in items 2 through 4 above believes that a recording shows a violation of District policy or campus procedures, the individual may allow access to the recording by appropriate legal and human resources Talent Office personnel designated by the District for the purpose of determining whether a policy or procedure has been violated.

Any person who suspects that child abuse or neglect has occurred shall report this suspicion as required by law and District policy. [See FFG]

Reporting an Incident

A person alleging that an incident, as defined by law, has occurred in a classroom or other setting in which video surveillance is conducted shall file a report on the form provided by the District with the principal as soon as possible after the person suspects the
alleged incident. If possible, an incident report form shall be filed within 48 hours of the facts giving rise to the allegation. The principal shall promptly view, or direct an authorized individual to view, the video surveillance footage to identify the relevant portion of the recording. No later than ten District business days after the report is filed, the principal or designee shall respond by notifying the person whether the alleged incident was recorded in the District’s video surveillance footage and shall initiate other steps as required by law, District policy, or local procedures.

Complaints

Complaints related to video and audio recordings under this policy shall be filed in accordance with DGBA, FNG, or GF, as applicable. A complainant who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the District’s complaint process may appeal in writing to the commissioner of education in accordance with Education Code 7.057 and 19 Administrative Code 103.1303. A parent, staff member, or District administrator may request an expedited review in accordance with 19 Administrative Code 103.1303.

Effective Date

This policy shall be effective as of the adoption date: October 14, 2016. December 10, 2021.