

Policy Statement

In circumstances where it is deemed necessary to further protect the health, welfare, and safety of students, staff, and visitors, and to protect school and student property beyond protection provided through other less invasive alternatives, the board shall support the use of video/electronic surveillance systems in schools, school board buildings, on all property and in all transportation and other vehicles owned, operated, contracted or used by the school board.

Rationale:

Video/electronic security surveillance systems are intended to complement other means being employed by the school board to promote and foster a safe and secure teaching and learning environment for students and staff. The school board believes that the monitoring of behaviour of individuals who come onto school property is a significant factor in maintaining order and discipline and protecting students, staff, visitors, and school and student property. To that end, the school board recognizes the value of video/electronic surveillance systems as a supplement to traditional alternatives.

Scope:

This policy shall govern the use of video/electronic surveillance activities in and around all buildings, properties, school buses, and other vehicles owned, operated or contracted by the Eastern School Board.

Procedures:

1. The Eastern School District will establish Administrative Regulations that govern the application of this policy.
2. The Administrative Regulations will be reviewed annually by the CEO/Director of Education in collaboration with the District Administrative Staff.
3. The approval of the CEO/Director of Education is required before any school in the district installs a video/electronic surveillance system.

Authority: Eastern School Board
Legal Reference:
Cross Reference: The Schools Act, 1997

Date Approved by the Board: August 17, 2005
Date of Amendments: October 10, 2007

4. Schools, school board buildings and grounds may be equipped with video cameras and other electronic devices for surveillance purposes. The specific locations of these devices will be approved by the Director of Education.
5. A video recording or other electronic surveillance product may be used by the school board
 - i. as evidence in any legal or disciplinary action brought forward;
 - ii. for inquiries and proceedings related to law enforcement;
 - iii. for research.
6. The foregoing policy statements attempts to balance the interests of students, the school and law enforcement as contemplated by the ***Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act***. Accordingly, parents ought to have access to video surveillance of their children unless there are compelling reasons not to disclose same, chief among them being privacy of other individuals or where the disclosure would interfere with or harm a law enforcement matter.

Authority: Eastern School Board
Legal Reference:
Cross Reference: The Schools Act, 1997

Date Approved by the Board: August 17, 2005
Date of Amendments: October 10, 2007