

School Surveillance Cameras Best Practices

1. If a student is involved in a physical altercation with another student, who has a right to view the video?

This must be determined on a case by case basis. If the information from the video results in disciplinary consequences, it may be appropriate to share the video with the parent/legal guardian of the student receiving disciplinary consequences.

2. May a parent request a copy of video footage?

Again, this must be determined on a case by case basis, keeping in mind the privacy rights of others who may be present in the video.

3. Can you use a student to help identify other students in a video?

It is not a good practice to involve students in identifying other students.

4. Can parents view videos?

If a student is receiving disciplinary consequences relating to information observed through video surveillance, it may be appropriate to provide the parents/legal guardian with access to the video surveillance.

5. When can videos be handed over to law enforcement?

Generally, with an appropriate subpoena, videos may be provided to law enforcement. If it is believed a crime has occurred or is occurring on school premises, it may be appropriate to provide video information to law enforcement without a subpoena.

6. Can law enforcement request access to the exterior cameras to assist in a non-school related investigation?

This must be determined on a case by case basis, but generally, yes, if the video does not relate to students, the school may provide video from exterior cameras to law enforcement.

7. In some places, schools have given law enforcement continuous access to their security cameras in case of an active shooter situation. Is this permissible?

Out of respect for the privacy of students, it is our advice not to provide continuous access to video surveillance to law enforcement. If there is an active shooter situation or other crime in progress, schools may provide law enforcement access to video surveillance.

8. If outside groups, such as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, use a school facility, are these outside groups able to review video surveillance?

This must be determined on a case by case basis, taking into account the information captured by video, as well as the privacy interests of those involved. Generally, the school does not share video surveillance with outside groups.