

OYSTER RIVER COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD	Policy Code: ECAF
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### AUDIO AND VIDEO SURVEILLANCE ON SCHOOL BUSES

The safety and personal security of students being transported on district school buses is the primary concern of the district transportation program. The school bus driver has direct responsibility for maintenance of a safe and secure environment for students riding the bus. Since the driver must operate the bus as well as monitor the activities of the students on the bus, there may be occasions when it is prudent to augment the driver’s observation by installing electronic surveillance devices on the bus. Audio recordings in conjunction with video recording may also be captured on school buses, in accordance with the provisions of RSA 570-A:2.

The following directives may apply to the use of electronic surveillance on the district’s school buses:

- All district buses may be equipped for the use of electronic surveillance devices.
- The Superintendent or his/her designee shall ensure that there is a sign prominently displayed on the school buses informing the occupants of the school buses that such video and audio recordings are occurring.
- Electronic surveillance may be authorized by the transportation coordinator either a) selectively on buses when there are known safety or security problems, or b) randomly to permit evaluation of daily operational conditions across the bus fleet.
- Electronic records created by surveillance devices will be handled as “personal and confidential” materials and safeguarded to protect the privacy of students and staff.
- Access to electronic records will be on a strict need-to-know basis and will normally be restricted to the transportation coordinator and building principal(s). In cases where the records are used in evidence in a disciplinary or legal process, the parents of the involved student(s) will be permitted to view the records.
- Electronic records not needed for review or evidence will be taped over within ten(-10) school days.

Legal Reference:

RSA 570-A:2, Capture of Audio Recordings on School Buses Allowed

Cross Reference:

JLCF – Student Wellness

JICC – Student Conduct on School Buses