

Public Schools of Brookline

## Exterior Surveillance Camera Policy

First Reading: May 1, 2025

**Commented [BF1]:** 1. Town Counsel should be asked to review the policy.  
2. The Town's Surveillance policy should be reviewed for alignment and guidance with this policy, especially with regard to Brookline Police access to video recordings.

The Public Schools of Brookline seeks to promote school safety and a secure educational environment. Balancing individuals' privacy rights with the district's duty to ensure safety, the district reserves the right to use surveillance cameras, when necessary, in outdoor areas of school grounds and facilities.

### Purpose of Surveillance Cameras

Surveillance cameras will be used to assist in areas of:

- Student Safety and threats to students/staff
- Locating missing students
- Deterring illegal activity and incidents that threaten the health, safety, or welfare of members of the school community
- Preventing Vandalism and Property Damage
- Monitoring Suspicious Activity
- Protecting School Property
- After-Hours Surveillance
- Emergency Response Coordination and Assistance

### Implementation and Monitoring

- Cameras will only be placed in outdoor areas of school property where there is no reasonable expectation of privacy. This also can include areas adjacent to the schools that are on a public way that are regularly traversed in the course of a school day by students and staff.
- Cameras will not record audio.
- Facial recognition, automatic tracking, and other surveillance technologies will not be used without the express consent of the Brookline School Committee.
- Only authorized personnel, as designated by the Building Principal, may access surveillance footage. Access is also permitted to the security contractor and the Town Building Department.
- Police access will be granted as per district and town agreements.
- Cameras will not be monitored continuously but will be reviewed as needed.

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### Storage and Access

- The monitor for the system will be housed in a space within the office of the Building Principal (and/or the Assistant Head of School at BHS).
- Video recordings will be stored for 90 days unless needed for investigations.
- Recordings will not be released outside the district except through legal processes.
- As a standard, recordings should primarily be reviewed only in response to specific incidents involving suspected violations of law, or incidents that threatened the health, safety, or welfare of members of the school community. However, in an active situation presenting a clear and present danger to the campus, the system could be used to monitor events in real time.
- Logs will track access to recordings, including the reason for viewing and any actions taken.

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