

DE SOTO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

751.21

USE OF VIDEO MONITORING SYSTEMS ON SCHOOL BUSES

The De Soto Area School District Board of Education approves the use of video cameras on school buses for the primary purpose of reducing disciplinary problems and vandalism on the bus. The District has developed a contract provision with its transportation contractors for installation and use of video cameras on school buses. All cameras and camera boxes shall be installed and operated in strict conformance to this policy.

Parents/guardians will be notified once a year that video cameras are being used on the buses, and a sign will be placed at the front of each bus indicating the video cameras may be present. Such notification will be included with distribution of individual bus route information sent to each bus rider, and in student handbooks. ***{NOTE: Does this reflect current practice? I was unable to find such information in student handbooks.}***

Monitoring devices shall be rotated among buses on an as-needed basis and in complete confidentiality, and shall be installed in accordance with all applicable state and federal regulations. Administrators, transportation contractor or individual drivers may request that the video camera be on a specific bus on designated dates.

The decision to view a tape for any reason rests solely with the District Administrator. He/she will consult with the transportation contractor and the appropriate building principal regarding use of the tape for gathering evidence of behavior or vandalism. Under no circumstances is any other individual, staff member or non-staff member permitted to view the surveillance tape, except with express written permission of the District Administrator. The District Administrator, transportation director and appropriate principal view the tape, take notes, and convey what is observed to the appropriate parties when dealing with discipline issues. A log will be kept of the date and names of individuals viewing the tape.

Tapes used for disciplinary purposes shall remain under the control of the District Administrator.

While maintaining compliance with appropriate federal and state laws, the District reserves the right to provide copies of recordings to law enforcement agencies as deemed appropriate by the District Administrator.

If there are no reported bus problems pertaining to the date a videotape was recorded, the transportation contractor will erase or may reuse the videotape after 10 school days. Final release for reuse of any videotape held for the purpose of documenting a problem will be authorized by the District Administrator.

LEGAL REF.: Sections 118.125 Wisconsin Statutes
120.13(1)
121.52(1)

CROSS REF.: 347, Student Records
443.2, Student Conduct on School Buses

APPROVED: February 13, 2006

REVISED:

NOTE: This policy was found in your district's current policy manual (no code - approved 2/13/06). I revised it for stylistic reasons. (WASB - 2/08)