

## **VIDEO/AUDIO MONITORS ON SCHOOL BUSES**

### **Background**

Use of video recording devices on school buses has been permissible for many years. On February 4, 2014, Act 9 of 2014, an amendment to the Wiretap and Electronic Surveillance Act, was signed into law, permitting audio recording on a school vehicle for disciplinary or security purposes provided that the School Board has adopted a policy that authorizes such audio recording on school vehicles.

### **Objective**

The safety and security of students on a school bus depends on the capacity of the driver to maintain order. The main premise of video camera(s) and audio recording equipment on a bus is to provide additional data to the bus driver and school district officials in monitoring the conduct of student riders.

### **Policy**

1. Video camera(s) and audio recording equipment may be installed at random throughout the school district fleet of school buses and may be found on school buses contracted from an outside provider.
2. Bus drivers may or may not be informed that a camera and audio recording equipment has been placed in the bus.
3. Videos and audio recordings will be reviewed as needed by the District Administrator and/or Transportation Contractor. When behavioral problems exist, the District's Transportation Office will inform the building principal.
4. Only the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, building principals, and the Transportation Coordinator may view the videos and/or listen to audio recordings.
5. All videos and audio recordings will be kept for a period of one (1) week. Copies of the video/audio tape will be made when behavioral problems are reported.
6. The District may use the video tapes and audio recordings for investigatory purposes. Parents of students whose actions result in discipline have a right to view the tape of their child's behavior only.

### **Administrative Responsibility**

1. The District will notify its students and parents or guardians of the policy by letter.
2. The District will post a notice that students may be video/audio taped inside the school bus. Notice will be clearly visible on any applicable school bus or school vehicle that is furnished with recording equipment.

Communication

This policy shall be communicated to:

1. All District employees
2. Students and Parents
3. The Mt. Lebanon Community

Adopted April 15, 2014