

Security Cameras at Natick High School

Natick High School has been equipped with 230 security cameras with the purpose of protecting students and our beautiful new 78 million dollar facility. The cameras provide administrators with an extra set of eyes to deter and watch for unacceptable or illegal conduct. Another benefit of video cameras is the strong evidence they can preserve on tape for disciplinary decisions and liability claims. Students have been notified about the cameras being present in the building, and as the old high school had multiple cameras, this is not something new.

In response to questions from students, staff and parents, the following list of FAQ's is provided. Please don't hesitate to contact us with your questions.

Are the cameras visible or hidden?

All cameras are visible. Cameras may not be used in an area where there is a "reasonable expectation of privacy." Examples are bathrooms, gym locker/changing areas.

Was this discussed publicly and are there school committee meetings minutes to reference?

This was discussed publicly many times when we reviewed school security, for example; at the forums for the override, building committee meetings and at School Committee meetings. However, it was never a specific agenda item.

Who monitors the footage?

Natick High School administration

Who has access to cameras?

Natick High School administration

What is "actionable?"

Administrator discretion

Can police access the footage?

Under the student record regulations, the police may only access video footage under limited circumstances. If those circumstances do not exist, they would need to issue a subpoena in order to receive a copy of the footage. Prior to releasing any video footage, the school district would make reasonable efforts to notify the students' parents of the subpoena in advance of complying with it.

What are student rights with regard to the footage?

If the video footage identifies a particular student, it would be viewed as a student record and subject to all of the restrictions set forth in the student record regulations. The school district will normally allow access to video footage only when the video is used to make a student discipline determination.

Where is footage archived?

At the high school on a server.

How long is footage kept and when is it erased or destroyed?

30 days – then erased

Can recordings be edited or altered?

The video system used by the school does not allow the recordings to be edited or the video images to be altered for the purpose of ensuring that footage can always be considered legitimate evidence