

SUBJECT: VIDEO CAMERAS ON SCHOOL BUSES

Student behavior on the school bus and the driver's management of the behavior are the two key elements to a safe and enjoyable bus ride. A video camera on a school bus is but an aid to monitor bus discipline. It does not replace the discipline policy, the authority of the driver, or the responsibility of the school officials. The basis safe riding rules must prevail and the consequences of misconduct must be carried out. There will be zero tolerance for violence on the school bus.

- a) All students shall receive a copy of the School Bus Riders' Manual.
- b) Video cameras may be placed in any school bus in the Elmira City School District. All students, drivers and bus monitors shall be notified that they are subject to being videotaped on the school bus at any time. Notification to parents of all students shall be made through the School District and the media. The actual taping shall be audio and video.
- c) The ideal method of videotaping shall be by scheduling the cameras on school buses on a rotation basis so as not to select only certain buses. Based on the number of incidences of misconduct or the seriousness of these reports, video monitoring of a bus route may be done more extensively. The School District's Assistant Superintendent for Management Services or Supervisor of Transportation may decide if more extensive monitoring is needed, based on just cause. Such additional monitoring is meant to augment the written disciplinary reports by the bus driver, not take the place of reports.

After the videotaping has been conducted, the tapes are to be stored at the transportation office for a period of fifteen (15) days. The Supervisor of Transportation shall periodically review video tapings randomly selected to ensure proper school bus conduct. If no incidences are reported in 15 days, the tapes will be recycled. If incidences are reported, or if incidences are viewed during random selection, the video tapes are to be kept until final resolution, action and time for any appeals.

A request for viewing a videotape can only be made by drivers, school administrators, transportation supervisors or the parent/guardian of a student on the bus where video taping occurred.

A request for viewing can only be made with the intent to observe a given problem or situation and in an effort to work towards a resolution of that problem or incident. Requests shall be made in writing through the District Supervisor of Transportation.

- d) The decision to place a camera in a particular bus shall be made by the Supervisor of Transportation. (Drivers may request a camera be placed on their bus). The actual installation and removal of the video camera shall be performed by the Supervisor of Transportation or the Transportation Foreman.