
I. PURPOSE

Athlos Academy of Jefferson Parish has adopted the following policy to outline the procedures/guidelines for video surveillance in certain self-contained classrooms and other special education settings for promoting student safety.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A.** Parent: A parent or legal guardian whose child receives special education and related services per the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and is assigned to one or more self-contained classrooms or other special education settings for at least fifty percent of the instructional day instructional day.
- B.** Classroom: Shall mean a self-contained classroom or other special education setting in which a majority of students in regular attendance are provided special education and related services and are assigned to one or more self-contained classrooms or other special education settings for at least fifty percent of the instructional day. “Classroom” shall not mean special education classrooms and other special education settings where the only students with exceptionalities receiving special education and related services are those who have been deemed to be gifted or talented and have not been identified as also having a disability.
- C.** Self-contained classroom: A classroom on a regular Athlos Academy of Jefferson Parish campus (i.e., a campus that serves students in general education and students in special education) in which a majority of the students in regular attendance are provided special education and related services. “Board of Trustees/Directors” means a majority of the Citizens Committee for Education Board of Trustees of the non-profit charter organization.
- D.** School business day: A day that campus or Athlos Academy of Jefferson Parish administrative offices are open.
- E.** Incident: An event or circumstance that involves alleged “abuse” or “neglect,” as those terms are defined in Article 603 of the Louisiana Children’s Code of a student by an employee of Athlos Academy of Jefferson Parish or of a student by another student; and allegedly occurred in a self-contained classroom or other special education setting in which video surveillance is conducted under Louisiana Revised Statute 17:1948.

III. POLICY

A. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR REQUESTING VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

- a. Pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statute 17:1948 and 3996(B)(59), parents and/or legal guardians may request, in writing, the placement of a camera to be installed in a classroom that meets the criteria above. If Athlos Academy of Jefferson Parish grants the request, Athlos Academy of Jefferson Parish shall place equipment only in classrooms or settings in which the parent's child is in regular attendance.
- b. Athlos Academy of Jefferson Parish shall designate an administrator at the primary administrative office of Athlos Academy of Jefferson Parish with responsibility for coordinating the provision of equipment to Athlos Academy of Jefferson Parish in compliance with this section. A parent must submit a request to the principal or the principal's designee of the school or campus addressed in the request, and the principal or designee must provide a copy of the request to the administrator.
- c. Athlos Academy of Jefferson Parish shall provide a response to a request not later than the *seventh school business day* after receipt of the request by the person to whom it must be submitted that either authorizes the request or states the reason for denying the request. Athlos Academy of Jefferson Parish *shall begin operation of a video camera in compliance with this policy not later than the 45th school business day*, or the first school day after the 45th school business day if that day is not a school day, after the request is authorized.

B. NOTICE OF CAMERA PLACEMENT

- a. Athlos Academy of Jefferson Parish shall provide written notice of camera placement to all who enter a classroom where a camera is installed, including teachers and other school employees, students in the classroom, the students' parents and legal guardians, and authorized visitors.

C. RESTRICTIONS ON VIDEO RECORDING

- a. Video cameras must be capable of covering all areas of the classroom or other special education setting, including a room attached to the classroom or setting used for time-out. Video cameras must also be capable of recording audio from all areas of the classroom or other special education setting, including a room attached to the classroom or setting used for time-out.
- b. Athlos Academy of Jefferson Parish shall not place the camera in a location or area designated for students to change or remove clothing, including the interior of a restroom.

D. TIMES OF OPERATION

- a. Cameras shall be operational at all times during the instructional day when students are in the self-contained classroom or other special education setting.

- b. Athlos Academy of Jefferson Parish shall operate and maintain the video camera in the classroom or setting, as long as the classroom or setting continues to satisfy the requirements under this policy, for the remainder of the school year in which the school or campus received the request, unless the requestor withdraws the request in writing.
- c. If for any reason Athlos Academy of Jefferson Parish will discontinue operation of a video camera during a school year, not later than the fifth school day before the date the operation of the video camera will be discontinued, Athlos Academy of Jefferson Parish shall notify the parents of each student in regular attendance in the classroom or setting that operation of the video camera will not continue unless requested by a person eligible to make a request.
- d. Not later than the tenth school day before the end of each school year, the school or campus must notify the parents of each student in regular attendance in the classroom or setting that operation

E. CONFIDENTIALITY OF VIDEO RECORDINGS

- a. Athlos Academy of Jefferson Parish will take every necessary precaution to protect student privacy and determine to whom and under what circumstances the recordings may be disclosed. The recordings shall not be considered “personally identifiable information” as defined in R.S. 17:3914. Video equipment must be able to redact student faces in accordance with FERPA. If Athlos Academy of Jefferson Parish determines that the recording is an “education record,” Athlos Academy of Jefferson Parish shall release the recording in accordance with FERPA. State law does not limit the access of a student’s parent to a record regarding the student under FERPA or other law.
- b. In order to review recordings for potential release, and operation and maintenance of the equipment, the following individuals shall have access to the video equipment: the superintendent, the assistant superintendent of administrative services, the director of special education, the assistant superintendent of technology, the network administrator and network assistant.
- c. A contractor or employee performing job duties relating to the installation, operation, or maintenance of video equipment or the retention of video recordings who incidentally views a video recording is not in violation of this policy.

F. RETENTION OF RECORDINGS

- a. Athlos Academy of Jefferson Parish shall retain video recordings from a video camera placed under this policy for at least three months after the date the video was recorded. Recordings are stored and disposed of in accordance with Athlos Academy of Jefferson Parish’s video and audio recording retention and storage policy.

- b. If a person eligible to receive a copy of the video pursuant to a request under this policy, the Athlos Academy of Jefferson Parish shall retain the recording from the date of receipt of the request until the person has viewed the recording and a determination has been made as to whether the recording documents an alleged incident. If the recording documents an alleged incident, Athlos Academy of Jefferson Parish shall retain the recording until the alleged incident has been resolved, including the exhaustion of all appeals.

G. COMPLIANCE WITH THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION'S LIFE SAFETY CODE

- a. Pursuant to the requirements of La. R.S. 17:1948(C)(6), the installation of all cameras and surveillance systems installed pursuant to this policy shall comply with the National Fire Protection Association's Life Safety Code.

H. TRAINING OF SCHOOL STAFF

- a. Any teacher(s) or school employee who provides services in a classroom where cameras are installed shall be trained on compliance with the provisions of this policy within ten days of the commencement of work in the classroom or the installation of the surveillance equipment of the video camera will not continue during the following school year unless a person eligible to make a request for the next school year submits a new request.
- b. This policy applies to placement, operation, and maintenance of a video camera in a self-contained classroom or other special education setting during the regular school year and extended school year services.

Legal References: Louisiana Revised Statute 17:1948 and 3996(B)(59)