



Video Surveillance on Halton Student Transportation Services School Buses Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

[Halton Student Transportation Services](#) (HSTS) will be implementing interior-facing video cameras on school buses beginning Feb. 6, 2023. These cameras will be activated on 70% of bus routes that include students from the Halton District School Board (HDSB) and the Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB). This includes buses being used for charters and field trips.

1. Why are there video cameras on my child's school bus?

Video cameras on school buses will provide an additional measure to help enhance student safety, monitor disruptive behaviour and maintain order on school buses while students are transported safely to and from school.

2. How many cameras are on the bus and where are they located?

There are three (3) cameras on the bus: one (1) at the front, one (1) at the back and one (1) in the middle. All cameras are focused on the interior of the bus.

3. Who has access to view the video footage/recording(s)?

The footage is encrypted and only viewable with proprietary software. The following individuals are authorized to view surveillance footage:

- School Principals (or a person designated by the Principal)
- Board Supervisory Officers
- Director of Education
- Manager of Halton Student Transportation Services (HSTS)

Please view the [HDSB Video Surveillance Administrative Procedure](#) for more information.

4. How long does video data stay on file before being overwritten?

Video that is not used for an investigation will remain on the hard drive on the bus and will be retained for approximately 30 days. After 30 days, video that has not been accessed for an investigation will be overwritten.

Video that is provided to law enforcement authorities for an investigation will be retained according to the retention practices and requirements of that agency.

5. Is the bus driver able to turn cameras on and off?

No, the camera is controlled by the ignition key, and will activate once the bus is running.

6. How will my child know if they are riding on a bus with cameras?

School buses with cameras turned on will have signage on the bus to indicate that video surveillance is in place.

7. Will there be cameras on the stop arms of buses ?

Cameras are used on the interior of the bus only. Investigating traffic violations related to school bus stop arms is a police matter and is out of the scope of this initiative.

Dashboard cameras are also not enabled on HSTS school buses.

8. What about buses used for other activities?

Video surveillance may be collected on school buses that are operated by third-party providers, typically used for field trips and co-curricular activities.

9. What about my child's right to privacy?

Personal information recorded by these video cameras is collected under the authority of the *Education Act* and in accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (MFIPPA).

HDSB, HCDSB and HSTS have collaborated with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario to design the pilot project in such a way that allows for secure and limited collection of personal information. Personal privacy

and security have been carefully considered in the design of the pilot and will be reevaluated upon its conclusion.

For more information, refer to the [Privacy and Information Management FAQs](#)

If you have any questions about the use and disclosure of personal information, please contact the HSTS, the school principal or privacy@hdsb.ca.