



Safety & Security  
1550 Main Street  
P.O. Box 1410  
Springfield, MA  
01103-1410

## SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS - SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Since the inception of this agreement three years ago, the interior cameras have been accessed eight times in total. Seven of those times were prank swatting calls with the event at Sci Tech in March of 2024 being the one real time use.

The agreement is in place to aid officer response to an event such as an active shooter. Aiding police response is imperative to bring a quick and safe resolution to the situation. Giving the police the ability to know exactly what they are responding to and where will undoubtedly save lives.

Our one real time use case at Sci Tech proved to be invaluable. RTAC was able to immediately utilize the interior cameras to provide responding officers with accurate information. The police knew the perpetrator fled out of the building and not in, they knew which direction, how many people were involved and what car they were driving. This information was quickly used to determine there was no further threat to the campus and aided in arrests within hours.

The cameras were also utilized this school year as a student stole his teacher's cell phone and called 911 saying there was an active shooter in the building. As officers were responding RTAC was able to utilize the interior cameras to determine there was nothing out of the ordinary occurring in the building. Without this information, police would have entered the building guns drawn assuming they were responding to an active shooter.

Numerous other school districts in the Commonwealth have similar agreements with their local police departments. A few that are comparable in size and demographics are as follows: **Worcester, Brockton, Lynn, Lawrence, New Bedford, and Framingham.**

## **INTERIOR SPS CAMERAS IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS**

**Q:** Where are interior cameras located in SPS school buildings?

**A:** Common areas such as Hallways, gyms, stairwells, and cafeterias.

**Q:** Are there cameras in school classrooms, bathrooms, or locker rooms?

**A:** NO

**Q:** If there is a public safety emergency situation, can SPD access interior camera live images?

**A:** Yes, but only the civilian SPD Real Time Crime Analysis staff and the civilian SPD video analyst can access live camera images.

**Q:** What is a public safety emergency situation?

**A:** Active shooter, knife wielding intruder, hostage situation, or another life-threatening situation.

**Q:** If during a public safety emergency situation, does the SPD have to notify SPS of the access to SPS interior security cameras live images?

**A:** Yes, the SPD civilian real time crime analysis staff and or video analyst immediately notify the SPS office of Safety and Security that the interior cameras have been accessed and the purpose for said access.

**Q:** What information must be provided by the SPD to SPS Safety and Security Office in the case of a public safety emergency situation?

**A:** Details of such access date, by who on the Real Time Crime Analysis staff, time location, and reasons why.

**Q:** Who can access live or recently recorded images of SPS interior security cameras during a public safety emergency situation?

**A:** ONLY by:

1. the civilian Real Time Crime Analysis staff
2. the SPD Video Analyst staff.



**Q:** Are there any circumstances other than public safety emergency situations that SPD can access SPS interior camera live or recent recordings of images?

**A:** Yes, but only with prior written approval from the SPS Safety and Security Office for the purpose of a non-emergency law enforcement investigation, or for law enforcement training, or to perform maintenance on the camera equipment, provided there are no students in the building.

**Q:** Who retains or keeps the video images?

**A:** The video images are only recorded on SPS owned cameras and therefore SPS owns the images and retains the right to reproduce video images for: SPD, DA's office, Law enforcement agencies, Court Order, or subpoena. SPD real time crime analyst staff can only view images in real time. There is no recording capacity.

**Q:** Is there a way to know who at the SPD has accessed a SPS camera?

**A:** Yes, the SPD camera video feed can only be accessed by the authorized Real Time Crime Analysis civilian staff by entering a username and password. The system then records under the username the location of the camera being accessed and for what period of time the camera video is accessed.

**Q:** How are the video images viewed by the Real Time Crime Analysis staff to be used?

**A:** Only for law enforcement purposes. The real time images cannot be used by SPD for discipline of students or SPS staff. The images cannot be used to assess documented status of a student or parent.

**Q:** How does the Interdepartmental Agreement protect student images recorded on SPS cameras?

**A:** Other than as authorized in the Agreement, Video images of a SPS student can ONLY be released or redisclosed by SPS with prior authorization from the student's Parent/Guardian, Court Order or subpoena. Real time images cannot be saved or recorded by SPD civilian Real Time Crime Analysis staff.