

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Education Pre-K -12

BILL: CS/SB 1170

INTRODUCER: Education Pre-K -12 Committee and Senator Calatayud

SUBJECT: Education

DATE: February 5, 2026

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Sabitsch	Bouck	ED	Fav/CS
2.	_____	_____	JU	_____
3.	_____	_____	RC	_____

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/SB 1170 modifies the Video Cameras in Public Schools Classrooms Pilot Program. Specifically, the bill transitions the pilot program from a single school district to a state-wide requirement to for district school boards to adopt a policy that implements a local process to consider parental request to install video cameras in specific public school classrooms with specified requirements.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

Exceptional Student Education in Florida

The State Board of Education (SBE) is required to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to ensure that all children who have disabilities are afforded a free and appropriate public education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living. The SBE is charged with protecting the rights of children who have disabilities and their parents as well as assessing and ensuring the effectiveness of educational efforts for those students.¹

¹ Section 1003.571, F.S.

Each district school board is required to provide an appropriate program of special instruction, facilities, and services for students determined to be eligible for Exceptional Student Education (ESE) services. Each district program is required to include the following:²

- Provide the necessary professional services for diagnosis and evaluation of exceptional students. Periodically, the district school board must submit to the Department of Education (DOE) proposed procedures for the provision of special instruction and services for ESE students.
- Provide the special instruction, classes, and services, either within the district school system, in cooperation with other district school systems, or through contractual arrangements with approved private schools or community facilities that meet established standards.
- Annually provide information describing the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind and all other programs and methods of instruction available to the parent of a sensory-impaired student.
- Provide instruction to homebound or hospitalized students.³

In the 2024-2025 school year, of the 2,859,655 students in public schools,⁴ 448,482 students (approximately 16 percent) were identified as students with a disability.⁵ Additionally, the Florida Inventory of School Houses (FISH) report identifies 181,598 total classrooms in Florida school districts and of those 13,173 (approximately 7 percent) are identified as ESE classrooms.⁶

Video Cameras in Public School Classrooms Pilot Program

The Video Cameras in Public School Classroom Pilot Program was established in 2021.⁷ The pilot required the Broward County School District to participate in the three-year pilot and included the following requirements and elements:

- Providing a video camera to any school with a self-contained ESE classroom upon the written request of a parent of a student in the classroom. A self-contained classroom means a classroom in which a majority of the students in regular attendance are provided special education services and are assigned to one or more such classrooms for at least 50 percent of the instructional day.
- Requiring the video camera to be operational within 30 days of the request by a parent in each classroom where the parent's student is in attendance for the remainder of the school year.
- Providing provisions when the student of the parent who requested the video camera in the classroom is no longer attending.
- The monitoring capabilities of the video cameras as well as the limitations of use of the video camera.

² Section 1003.57(1), F.S.

³ *Id.*

⁴ Florida Department of Education, *Total Enrollment/Membership by District by Race/Ethnicity, 2024-2025 Survey 2*, available at <https://www.fldoe.org/file/7584/2425MembInFLPublicSchools.xlsx>.

⁵ Florida Department of Education, *Exceptional Student Data by Race/Ethnicity, Total Disabled, 2024-2025, Survey 2*, available at <https://www.fldoe.org/file/7584/MPES2425.xlsx>.

⁶ Florida Department of Education, *Florida Inventory of School Houses, Relocatable Students Stations by Type* (Jan. 2025), available at <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/5599/urlt/0074725-typeclassrooms.xlsx>.

⁷ Ch. 2021-140, s. 2, Laws of Fla. (creating s. 1003.574, F.S.)

- Notifications to all students and parents of students where the video cameras are to be installed as well as the school district, and school employees assigned to classrooms where video cameras will be placed.
- Retention requirements for video recordings.
- Prohibitions related to use of video recordings included for teacher evaluations.
- School or district requirements related to redaction of video recordings and individuals or personnel permitted to view recordings.
- Appealing of actions taken by a school or school district as a result of the video recordings.
- Collection of data about the pilot by the DOE and rulemaking authority for the State Board of Education.⁸

Pilot Implementation and Follow-Up

Broward County School District implemented the Video Cameras in Public School Classrooms Pilot Program for three years beginning in 2021. The district installed 320 video cameras in self-contained ESE classrooms at a total cost of \$774,194 over the three-year pilot. During that time the district received 32 parental requests to view video recorded in classrooms that required redaction of those video recordings.⁹ The itemized costs of the pilot are as follows:¹⁰

- Camera hardware costs-\$400,734;
- Server related costs-\$153,000;
- Camera installation labor costs-\$204,160; and
- Other costs, including project management and procurement costs-\$16,300.

Following the pilot program, the Broward County School Board adopted a board policy (No. 4900) to continue allowing video cameras to be installed in self-contained ESE classrooms.¹¹ The school district estimates there are 1,100 eligible classrooms within the district that would cost nearly \$2 million to equip all such classrooms with video cameras. In 2024-2025, the school district surveyed parents and some 667 parents indicated that they would make a request to install video cameras.¹²

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

CS/SB 1170 amends s. 1003.574, F.S., to convert the Video Cameras in Public School Classrooms Pilot Program into a statewide model. Specifically, the bill:

- Converts the Video Cameras in Public School Classrooms Pilot Program into a state-wide model by requiring each district school board to adopt a policy that directs school personnel to consider and respond to requests from parents to install cameras in self-contained classrooms.

⁸ Section 1003.574(2) - (14), F.S.

⁹ Broward County Public Schools, Policy 4900 – Audio and Video Recording of Self-Contained ESE Classrooms, Policy Review Project: Rule Development Workshop, (Oct. 8, 2024), available at <https://legistarweb-production.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/attachment/pdf/2892097/Presentation.pdf>.

¹⁰ Email, Broward County Public Schools, Legislative Affairs (Dec. 6, 2024).

¹¹ Broward County School Board, Policy 4900.

¹² Broward County Public Schools, Policy 4900 – Audio and Video Recording of Self-Contained ESE Classrooms, Policy Review Project: Rule Development Workshop, (Oct. 8, 2024), available at <https://legistarweb-production.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/attachment/pdf/2892097/Presentation.pdf>.

- Requires the district to adopt the policy at the next regularly scheduled board meeting but not later than 60 days after the first parental request if the policy is not already in place.
- Allows the parent of an exceptional student education (ESE) student to request in writing to the school's principal or designee to have a camera installed in their student's self-contained classroom.
- Provides specific requirements that must be included in the district school board policy to include:
 - Timelines for submissions and responses.
 - Written notice to the parent acknowledging the request.
 - Allow for submission by the parents of supporting information and documentation.
 - Criteria for approval or denial of requests.
 - Written determination of both approvals and denials including the basis of the determination with established timelines of the process.
 - Steps for appeals of denied requests.
 - Compliance with notice requirements prior to installation of cameras.
- Limits a parent to one request per student per year unless there is a material change in circumstances that the district policy must define.
- Provides that classroom cameras to be operational within 30 days of the date of the written determination approving the parental request.
- Requires that an approved video camera must be operation for the remainder of the school year unless the parent withdraws the request in writing.

The bill maintains provisions that were part of the pilot program related to:

- Definitions.
- Actions when the student who was the subject of the request is no longer in attendance.
- The required capabilities of video cameras regarding coverage of the classroom areas, areas that should not be recorded by video cameras, when cameras are not required to be operational and steps when there is an interruption of operation of the cameras.
- Notices required prior to video camera installation that include parents, students, the school district and specific school employees.
- Retention of video recording for at least three months or until the conclusion of any investigation or administrative or legal proceeding including any appeals to those proceedings.
- Limitations on school district use of video cameras to include regular or continual monitoring, use for teacher evaluation or any purpose outside of the health and safety students. The bill, however, does prohibit the school district from concealing the identities of school or district employees that appear on video recordings and clarifies that installation of cameras under the district school board policy constitutes security or surveillance of buildings or grounds under s. 1014.04, F.S.
- Establishing the school principal as the custodian of the video recording and provides requirements regarding the release of the recording.
- Requirements that stipulate that within seven days after receiving a request to review a video recording which individuals are allowed to view the recordings; however, the bill adds a requirement that any viewing of video must include the accompanying audio of the recording.

- Provisions regarding appeals for violations by the school or district, incidental viewing of recordings, limiting access of the parent under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), creation of a liability for cause of action against a school or district or their employees.
- Exclusion of self-contained classes for students classified as gifted.
- Requirements for the Department of Education to collect data regarding installation of video cameras in self-contained classrooms.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill has no fiscal impact on state expenditures. The bill requires district school boards to establish policies that may call for installation of cameras in self-contained classrooms. Should schools through the policy determine a need to place a camera in the self-contained classroom, there is likely an indeterminate, negative fiscal impact on school or district (including equipment, installation, storage, and staff time associated with

responding to requests and redacting recordings). By way of example, Broward County Public Schools reported \$774,194 in total costs to install 320 cameras over the three-year pilot period.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 1003.574 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

CS by Education Pre-K – 12 on February 3, 2026: The committee substitute removes provisions of the bill related to the Reimagining Education and Career Help Act.

Additionally, the committee substitute modifies s. 1003.574, F.S., related to the Video Cameras in Public Schools Classrooms Pilot Program. Specifically, the amendment:

- Removes the requirement that the school district provide a camera to any school upon written request from a parent.
- Modifies language that required each school district to adopt a policy requiring placing cameras in classrooms to instead require the district to adopt a policy that directs school personnel to consider and respond to requests from parents to install cameras, and provides a timeline for the district to adopt the policy in response to a parental request if the policy is not already in place.
- Allows parents of certain students to request in writing to the school’s principal or designee to have a camera installed in their student’s classroom.
- Outlines the minimum requirements of the district policy and makes operational changes to the program including provisions for approval or denial of the request.
- Limits a parent to one request per student per year with exceptions.
- Provides timeframes for approved cameras to be operational.
- Defines that installation of cameras under the policy constitutes security or surveillance of buildings or grounds under s. 1014.04.

B. Amendments:

None.