

1 A bill to be entitled  
2 An act relating to exceptional students and video  
3 cameras in public schools; amending s. 1003.574, F.S.;  
4 deleting references to the Video Cameras in Public  
5 School Classrooms Pilot Program; deleting an obsolete  
6 definition; requiring a district school board to  
7 establish a policy to provide video cameras in self-  
8 contained classrooms upon the request of a parent;  
9 prohibiting a school or school district from  
10 concealing the identity of an employee in a video  
11 recording; providing that a video recording made  
12 available after a request must include accompanying  
13 audio; providing an appropriation; providing an  
14 effective date.

15  
16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

17  
18 **Section 1. Section 1003.574, Florida Statutes, is amended**  
19 **to read:**

20 1003.574 Video cameras in public school classrooms; ~~pilot~~  
21 ~~program. Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, the Video~~  
22 ~~Cameras in Public School Classrooms Pilot Program is created for~~  
23 ~~a period of 3 school years.~~

24 (1) As used in this section, the term:

25 (a) "Incident" means an event, a circumstance, an act, or

an omission that results in the abuse or neglect of a student by:

1. An employee of a public school or school district; or
2. Another student.

~~(b) "School district" means the Broward County Public Schools.~~

(b)(e) "Self-contained classroom" means a classroom at a public school 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.

(2)(a) Each district school board shall establish a policy to provide video cameras in self-contained classrooms upon the request of a parent under paragraph (b).

(b)(a) A school district shall provide a video camera to any school with a self-contained classroom upon the written request of a parent of a student in the classroom.

(c)(b) Within 30 days after receipt of the request from a parent, a video camera must ~~shall~~ be operational in each self-contained classroom in which the parent's student is in regular attendance for the remainder of the school year, unless the parent withdraws his or her request in writing.

(3) If the student who is the subject of the initial request is no longer in attendance in the classroom and a school discontinues operation of a video camera during a school year,

no later than the 5th school day before the date the operation of the video camera is discontinued, the school must notify the parents of each student in regular attendance in the classroom that operation of the video camera will cease unless the continued use of the camera is requested by a parent. No later than the 10th school day before the end of each school year, the school must notify the parents of each student in regular attendance in the classroom that operation of the video camera will not continue during the following school year unless a written request is submitted by a parent for the next school year.

(4) (a) A video camera placed in a self-contained classroom must be capable of all of the following:

1. Monitoring all areas of the self-contained classroom, including, without limitation, any room attached to the self-contained classroom which is used for other purposes.

2. Recording audio from all areas of the self-contained classroom, including, without limitation, any room attached to the self-contained classroom which is used for other purposes.

(b) A video camera placed in a self-contained classroom may not monitor a restroom or any other area in the self-contained classroom where a student changes his or her clothes, except for the entryway, exitway, or hallway outside a restroom or other area where a student changes his or her clothes because of the layout of the self-contained classroom.

76 (c) A video camera placed in a self-contained classroom is  
77 not required to be in operation when students are not present in  
78 the self-contained classroom.

79 (d) If there is an interruption in the operation of the  
80 video camera for any reason, an explanation must be submitted in  
81 writing to the school principal and the district school board  
82 which explains the reason for and duration of the interruption.  
83 The written explanation must be maintained at the district  
84 school board office for at least 1 year.

85 (5) Before a school initially places a video camera in a  
86 self-contained classroom pursuant to this section, the school  
87 shall provide written notice of the placement of such video  
88 camera to all of the following:

89 (a) The parent of each student who is assigned to the  
90 self-contained classroom.

91 (b) Each student who is assigned to the self-contained  
92 classroom.

93 (c) The school district.

94 (d) Each school employee who is assigned to work with one  
95 or more students in the self-contained classroom.

96 (6) A school shall:

97 (a) Retain video recorded from a video camera placed  
98 pursuant to this section for at least 3 months after the date  
99 the video was recorded, after which the recording must ~~shall~~ be  
100 deleted or otherwise made irretrievable ~~unretrievable~~; or

101 (b) Retain the recording until the conclusion of any  
102 investigation or any administrative or legal proceedings that  
103 result from the recording have been completed, including,  
104 without limitation, the exhaustion of all appeals.

105 (7) A school or school district may not:

106 (a) Allow regular, continuous, or continual monitoring of  
107 video recorded under this section; ~~or~~

108 (b) Use video recorded under this section for teacher  
109 evaluations or any purpose other than for ensuring the health,  
110 safety, and well-being of students receiving special education  
111 services in a self-contained classroom; or

112 (c) Conceal the identity of a school or school district  
113 employee who appears in a video recording.

114 (8) The principal of the school is the custodian of a  
115 video camera operated pursuant to this section, all recordings  
116 generated by that video camera, and access to such recordings.

117 (a) The release or viewing of any video recording under  
118 this section must comply with s. 1002.22.

119 (b) A school or school district shall:

120 1. Conceal the identity of any student who appears in a  
121 video recording, but is not involved in the alleged incident  
122 documented by the video recording, which the school allows to be  
123 viewed under subsection (9), including, without limitation,  
124 blurring the face of the uninvolved student.

125 2. Protect the confidentiality of all student records

126 contained in a video recording in accordance with s. 1002.22.

127 (9)(a) Within 7 days after receiving a request to view a  
128 video recording, a school or school district shall allow the  
129 following individuals to view a video recording with its  
130 accompanying audio made under this section:

131 1. A school or school district employee who is involved in  
132 an alleged incident that is documented by the video recording as  
133 part of the investigative process;

134 2. A parent of a student who is involved in an alleged  
135 incident that is documented by the video recording and has been  
136 reported to the school or school district;

137 3. A school or school district employee as part of an  
138 investigation into an alleged incident that is documented by the  
139 video recording and has been reported to the school or school  
140 district;

141 4. A law enforcement officer as part of an investigation  
142 into an alleged incident that is documented by the video  
143 recording and has been reported to the law enforcement agency;  
144 or

145 5. The Department of Children and Families as part of a  
146 child abuse or neglect investigation.

147 (b) A person who requests to view a recording must ~~shall~~  
148 make himself or herself available for viewing the recording  
149 within 30 days after being notified by the school or school  
150 district that the person's request has been granted.

151           (c) A person who views the recording and suspects that  
152 child abuse has occurred must report the suspected child abuse  
153 to the Department of Children and Families.

154           (10)(a) Any individual may appeal to the State Board of  
155 Education an action by a school or school district which the  
156 individual alleges to be in violation of this section.

157           (b) The state board shall grant a hearing on an appeal  
158 under this subsection within 45 days after receiving the appeal.

159           (11) A school or school district does not violate  
160 subsection (8) if a contractor or other employee of the school  
161 or school district incidentally views a video recording made  
162 under this section in connection with the performance of his or  
163 her duties related to either of the following:

164           (a) The installation, operation, or maintenance of video  
165 equipment; or

166           (b) The retention of video recordings.

167           (12) This section does not:

168           (a) Limit the access of the parent of a student, under the  
169 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. s.  
170 1232g, or any other law, to a video recording regarding his or  
171 her student.

172           (b) Waive any immunity from liability of a school district  
173 or an employee of a school district.

174           (c) Create any liability for a cause of action against a  
175 school or school district or an employee of a school or school

176 district carrying out the duties and responsibilities required  
177 by this section.

178 (d) Apply to self-contained classrooms in which the only  
179 students receiving special education services are those who have  
180 been deemed gifted.

181 (13) The department shall collect information relating to  
182 the installation and maintenance of video cameras under this  
183 section.

184 (14) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to  
185 implement this section.

186 **Section 2.** For the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the sum of \$2  
187 million in nonrecurring funds is appropriated from the General  
188 Revenue Fund to the Department of Education for school districts  
189 providing video cameras in self-contained classrooms pursuant to  
190 s. 1003.574, Florida Statutes.

191 **Section 3.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.