

SENATE, No. 4649

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 1, 2026

Sponsored by:

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER
District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)
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District 25 (Morris and Passaic)

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Senator Corrado

SYNOPSIS

Requires video surveillance cameras in certain special education classrooms for promotion of student safety.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/1/2026)

1 AN ACT concerning video surveillance in special education
2 classrooms and supplementing chapter 46 of Title 18A of the
3 New Jersey Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. a. A school district or charter school, in order to promote
9 student safety, shall provide video surveillance equipment,
10 including one or more video cameras with the capability of
11 recording sound, to each school that has a classroom in which a
12 majority of the students in regular attendance:

13 (1) are provided special education and related services;

14 (2) are assigned to the classroom for at least 50 percent of the
15 instructional day; and

16 (3) have speech or language delays that render the students
17 unable to communicate effectively.

18 A school that receives video surveillance equipment shall place
19 and operate the equipment in each classroom that satisfies the
20 criteria of this subsection, and shall continue to operate the
21 equipment for as long as the classroom continues to satisfy the
22 criteria of this subsection.

23 b. A video camera placed pursuant to this act shall be capable
24 of:

25 (1) covering all areas of the classroom, except that the camera
26 shall not record the interior of a bathroom or other area in which a
27 student's clothes are changed; and

28 (2) recording audio from all areas of the classroom.

29 c. Before a school activates a video camera in a classroom
30 pursuant to this act, the school shall provide written notice of the
31 video camera to all school staff members and to the parents or
32 guardians of each student who attends class or engages in school
33 activities in the classroom.

34 d. A school shall retain video recorded from a video camera
35 placed pursuant to this act for at least three months after the date the
36 video was recorded or until the resolution of an alleged incident
37 documented by a recording which has been released for viewing
38 pursuant to section 4 of this act, whichever is longer, unless
39 required to retain video for a longer period by a court order,
40 subpoena, or pursuant to law.

41 e. A video camera placed pursuant to this act is not required to
42 be in operation during times when students are not present in the
43 classroom.

44
45 2. A school district or charter school shall not:

46 a. allow regular or continual monitoring of recordings made by
47 a video camera pursuant to this act; or

1 b. use recordings made by a video camera pursuant to this act
2 for teacher evaluation purposes or for any purpose other than the
3 promotion of the safety of students receiving special education and
4 related services.

5
6 3. a. A recording made pursuant to this act is confidential and
7 may not be released or viewed except as provided in this section.

8 b. A school district or charter school shall release a video
9 recording for viewing by:

10 (1) a parent or guardian of a student who is involved in an
11 alleged incident documented by the recording for which a complaint
12 has been reported to the school district or charter school, on request
13 of the parent or guardian;

14 (2) an employee of the school district or charter school who is
15 involved in an alleged incident documented by the recording for
16 which a complaint has been reported to the school district or charter
17 school, on request of the employee;

18 (3) appropriate employees of the Department of Children and
19 Families as part of an investigation concerning alleged child abuse
20 or neglect;

21 (4) appropriate Department of Education employees as part of
22 an investigation of an alleged incident documented by the
23 recording; or

24 (5) a law enforcement officer, a school nurse, a school district or
25 charter school administrator trained in de-escalation and restraint
26 techniques, or a human resources staff member designated by a
27 board of education or a board of trustees of a charter school in
28 response to a report of an alleged incident or an investigation of an
29 employee of a school district or charter school or a report of alleged
30 abuse committed by a student.

31 c. If a person described in paragraphs (4) or (5) of subsection
32 b. of this section views the video recording and believes that the
33 recording documents a possible violation under chapter 6 of Title 9
34 of the Revised Statutes, the person shall notify the Department of
35 Children and Families for an investigation of alleged child abuse or
36 neglect.

37 d. If a person described in paragraphs (3), (4), or (5) of
38 subsection b. of this section who views the video recording believes
39 that the recording documents a possible violation of school district
40 or charter school policy, the person may allow access to the
41 recording to appropriate legal and human resources personnel. A
42 recording believed to document a possible violation of school
43 district or charter school policy relating to the neglect or abuse of a
44 student may be used as part of a disciplinary action against school
45 district or school personnel and shall be released at the request of
46 the student's parent or guardian in a legal proceeding.

47 e. This section shall not limit the access of a student's parent or
48 guardian to a record regarding the student under the "Family

1 Educational Rights and Privacy Act” (20 U.S.C. s.1232g) or any
2 other law.

3

4 4. A school district or charter school may solicit and accept
5 gifts, grants, and donations from any person for use in placing video
6 cameras in special education classrooms pursuant to this act.

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8 5. This act shall not:

9 a. waive any immunity from liability of a school district or
10 charter school, or of school district or charter school officers or
11 employees; or

12 b. create any liability for a cause of action against a school
13 district or charter school or against school district or charter school
14 officers or employees.

15

16 6. The State Board of Education shall promulgate regulations
17 pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410
18 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), necessary to effectuate the provisions of this
19 act.

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21 7. This act shall take effect in the first full school year following
22 the date of enactment.

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STATEMENT

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27 This bill would require the placement and operation of video
28 surveillance equipment, including one or more video cameras with
29 the capability of recording sound, in each classroom of a public
30 school or charter school in which a majority of the students in
31 regular attendance: (1) are provided special education and related
32 services; (2) are assigned to the classroom for at least 50 percent of
33 the instructional day; and (3) have speech or language delays which
34 render the students unable to communicate effectively. The video
35 cameras must be capable of covering all areas of the classroom,
36 except for bathrooms and changing areas, and must record audio
37 from all areas of the classroom. Before activating a camera in a
38 classroom, a school must provide written notice to school staff and
39 the parents of each student who attends class or engages in
40 activities in the classroom.

41 Under the bill, school districts and charter schools are not
42 permitted to allow regular or continual monitoring of the video
43 recordings or to use the recordings for teacher evaluation purposes
44 or for any purpose other than the promotion of the safety of students
45 receiving special education and related services. The bill provides
46 that the video recordings are confidential and may be viewed or
47 released only under certain circumstances and by certain
48 individuals. The videos may be released for viewing by:

1 (1) a parent or guardian of a student who is involved in an
2 alleged incident documented by the recording for which a complaint
3 has been reported to the school district or charter school, on request
4 of the parent or guardian;

5 (2) an employee of the school district or charter school who is
6 involved in an alleged incident documented by the recording for
7 which a complaint has been reported to the school district or charter
8 school, on request of the employee;

9 (3) employees of the Department of Children and Families as
10 part of an investigation concerning alleged child abuse or neglect;

11 (4) Department of Education employees as part of an
12 investigation of an alleged incident documented by the recording; or

13 (5) a law enforcement officer, a school nurse, a school district or
14 charter school administrator trained in de-escalation and restraint
15 techniques, or a designated human resources staff member in
16 response to a report of an alleged incident or an investigation of an
17 employee of a school district or charter school or a report of alleged
18 abuse committed by a student.

19 Under the bill, a school is required to retain recorded video for at
20 least three months or until the resolution of an alleged incident
21 documented by a recording which has been released for viewing
22 pursuant to the bill's provisions, whichever is longer, unless
23 required to retain video for a longer period by a court order,
24 subpoena, or pursuant to law. The bill permits a school district or
25 charter school to solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations from
26 any person for use in placing the video cameras in special education
27 classrooms.