

# Cameras in the Classroom: FAQs on Senate Bill 507 19 TAC Chapter 103. Health and Safety

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# Why was SB 507 written?

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Several high-profile cases involving allegations of intentional abuse of students with special needs, including some who are non-communicative, caused a group of committed parent activists to seek new statutory protections at the state level.

# When does SB 507 go into effect?

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2016 -2017 school year



# What does SB 507 do?

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It requires districts to install audio/video monitoring equipment in any self-contained classroom or other special education setting in which special education and related services are provided to a student for at least 50 percent of the instructional day.

# Who can request a camera be placed in a classroom?

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- Parent
- Trustee
- Staff member

# Must the school give notice that video monitoring is occurring in the classroom?

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Yes, SB 507 states that districts do not have to obtain consent from parents, but it requires notification be given in writing to both parents and campus staff.

# Who can request to view the recordings?

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- A school district employee or a parent or guardian of a student who is involved in an incident documented by the recording for which a complaint has been reported to the district, on request of the employee, parent, or guardian, respectively;
- Appropriate Department of Family and Protective Services personnel as part of an investigation of child abuse or neglect in a school setting under Section 261.406 of the Texas Family Code;
- A peace officer, a school nurse, a district administrator trained in de-escalation and restraint techniques as provided by commissioner rule, or a human resources staff member designated by the board of trustees of the school district or the governing body of the open-enrollment charter school in response to a complaint or an investigation of district or school personnel or a complaint of abuse committed by a student; or
- Appropriate agency or State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) personnel or agents as part of an investigation.

# How long must video be retained?

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At least six months



# How is SB 507 to be funded?

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- The bill specifies that districts may accept gifts, donations, and grant money from any person to fund the purchase of equipment.
- A district is not permitted to use IDEA Part B funds or state special education funds to implement the requirements.

# Contacts

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