

January 22, 2020

Dear Boston Public Schools Community,

Creating safe and welcoming learning environments for our students, staff and families is central to our mission at the Boston Public Schools. In addition, frequent and transparent communication with the BPS community is critically important.

The Boston Police Department (BPD) has requested that we share the following update with our school communities.

Starting on Tuesday, January 21, 2020, 11 Boston Police Department (BPD) officers assigned to the School Police Unit will begin wearing body cameras. The BPD School Police Unit is a special group of officers assigned to work with all schools in the City of Boston as needed. These officers are not members of BPS School Police who work in our schools on a daily basis. The BPS School Police are BPS employees.

Last year, the City of Boston implemented an updated policy for body worn cameras and since June of 2019, the Boston Police Department has been implementing body worn cameras to police officers in various neighborhoods and units across the city. This technology is an opportunity to showcase and enhance the department's commitment to transparency while further strengthening the level of trust that exists between the Boston Police Department and the community. Officers who have been assigned body worn cameras have been ordered to wear them while on duty.

Expected Use of Cameras:

- Pat frisks and searches of persons incident to arrest (if not already activated);
- When an officer reasonably believes a crowd control incident may result in unlawful activity;
- All dispatched calls for service involving contact with civilians;
- Initial responses by patrol officers, including on-site detentions, investigations pursuant to an arrest, arrests, and initial suspect interviews on-scene;
- Transport of prisoners;
- Investigative person stops: consensual, or articulable reasonable suspicion stops pursuant to Rule 323 (FIOE Report), or stops supported by probable cause;
- Vehicle Stops;
- Incidents of Emergency Driving;
- Incidents of Pursuit Driving;
- Any contact that becomes adversarial, including a Use of Force incident, when the officer has not already activated the camera; or Any other civilian contact or official duty that the officer reasonably believes should be recorded to enhance policing transparency, increase public trust and police-community relations, or preserve factual representations of officer-civilian interactions.



While there will be specific circumstances when a camera is recording, officers will have the ability to turn their camera on during any citizen contact or official duty circumstances. Additionally, they will also be allowed to turn the cameras off in order to protect sensitive information, the privacy of individuals or due to confidentiality concerns. Please note that body cameras will be worn only by Boston Police Department School Unit officers and not by members of the Boston Public Schools police. Footage from the body cameras will not be maintained by BPS and therefore will not become part of a student's education record. Access to body camera footage is governed by Boston Police Department [Rule 405](#). We are dedicated to ensuring our schools remain safe, open and inviting learning spaces for all of our students and their families.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Safety Services at 617-635-8000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda Cassellius".

Brenda Cassellius
Superintendent