

Hikvision Statement

In an effort to help keep students, staff and visitors healthy, Fayette County Public Schools have purchased thermal cameras to screen for fevers as persons enter its schools. An elevated temperature is one way to identify a person who may have a COVID-19 infection, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's webpage on temperature assessment devices.

The cameras are being used to solely check body temperatures, and not for any other identifying purpose. Due diligence has been conducted to ensure that temperature readings captured by the cameras are being stored only on the school system's network, and for a limited time, in order to protect the privacy of students, staff and visitors.

The school system already has security cameras installed in its school buildings, school hallways, and on school buses. However, these cameras do not record body temperature. No cameras are installed for recording daily classroom activities or other personally identifiable information such as name, sex, age, etc. The Hikvision cameras will only be used to measure an individual's temperature to help eliminate the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses that may cause fever.

The school system worked with its longtime security vendor, Ultimate Security of America, Inc., to purchase the Hikvision cameras. Ultimate Security is an authorized dealer for Hikvision like many other security vendors across the country that work with local and state agencies, organizations, and private businesses.

School systems in Georgia and in other states (North Carolina and Alabama) have purchased Hikvision equipment for body temperature screenings as their schools open for the 2020-2021 school year. In fact, some well-known businesses in the United States are users of Hikvision equipment including Coco-Cola, FedEx, Dominos, Enterprise Car Rental, Dave and Busters, Auto Zone, and Pruitt Healthcare.

Billy Griffith, president of Ultimate Security, says that Hikvision is the most advanced and accurate thermal camera on the market today.

"I personally contacted several locations in my research, in addition to four supply distribution centers, to make sure that Hikvision still had the reputation that I am familiar with, and my research confirmed it," says Griffith.

It is the policy of Fayette County Public Schools to not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or disability in any of its educational programs, employment practices, or other services and activities.