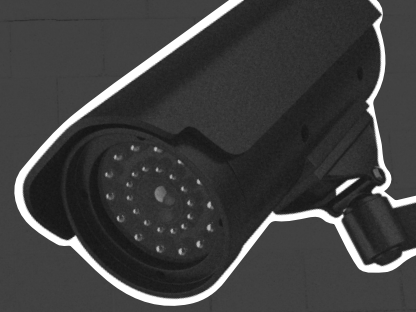




FACE SURVEILLANCE IN SCHOOLS

This unregulated technology poses grave risks to students



Tech companies are pushing dangerous face surveillance products on schools, with no government oversight

Face surveillance technology allows for the automated identification, tracking, and cataloging of people based on the unique physical characteristics of their faces. Public records obtained by the ACLU show that companies are eager to sell these products to schools.

Emails obtained by the ACLU show that one company, Suspect Technologies, has already tried to sell their face surveillance product to Plymouth officials. Meanwhile, in Somerset, a BuzzFeed investigation found that school officials have used the shadowy app Clearview AI.

With pressure from private companies and zero regulations, school administrators must **understand the risks** posed by face surveillance technologies, and reject their use.

Face surveillance has no place in our classrooms

Safety in school is critical—but it depends on support, not surveillance. This technology will not make schools safer. It will increase anxiety at a time when students need resources and school staff to keep them calm, safe, and feeling accepted.

Face surveillance is too often biased and inaccurate, which raises concerns about its use to police students of color in the school-to-prison pipeline. Academic, peer-reviewed studies show face surveillance algorithms fail with Black women up to 35 percent of the time.

Face surveillance is not designed for use on children, so the technology makes more mistakes when scanning young people's faces. These systems are modeled on and optimized for use on adult faces.

Face surveillance technology regularly misgenders transgender people, and will have a harmful impact on them. At a time when transgender children are being stripped of their rights at a national level, Massachusetts must protect transgender kids in our schools.

Lockport's face surveillance fiasco

In June 2019, the Lockport City School District in New York announced that it had plans to acquire facial surveillance technology. After sustained protest and outcry from civil rights activists, the state education department placed a temporary ban on the technology.

In January 2020, Lockport officials announced they would turn the technology on, despite ongoing objections from community members and activists. This led state lawmakers to create the nation's first ever moratorium on biometric surveillance in schools.

The Lockport fiasco shows what can happen when a school district purchases face surveillance technology to deploy in schools without legislative authorization or public debate. In total, Lockport wasted \$2.7 million in taxpayer dollars.

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