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# Denver Post

## Friday, December 7, 2007

### 4 Denver highs to get exterior cameras

**The monitors will go outside schools with high crime. Police will get direct access to the video, raising ACLU concerns.**

By Jeremy P. Meyer  
*The Denver Post*

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Police will be able to monitor feeds from 21 security cameras being placed outside four of Denver's most crime-affected high schools in an effort to boost security, officials announced Thursday. The cameras are being funded by \$400,000 in grants from Target Corp. and the U.S. Justice Department.

Denver Public Schools has about 1,400 cameras inside and outside its buildings monitored by district security officials. The partnership puts exterior cameras on East, Montbello, Manual and Abraham Lincoln high schools and allows police direct, wireless access to the video.

"It's all about prevention," Ed Ray, head of DPS security, said at a news conference outside East High announcing the partnership that also featured comments by Mayor John Hickenlooper and Police Chief Gerry Whitman.

Public safety is the entire community's responsibility, not just the police's, said Hickenlooper, and nowhere is that safety more important than at schools. "This is an exciting moment," Hickenlooper said. "In the end, it can't only be the Police Department. It takes all of us."

Schools receiving the new cameras were chosen based on crime statistics, Whitman said. In the past six months, police have investigated 17 criminal incidents near East High, including assault with a weapon, auto theft and burglary, according to the county's website. In the same period, there have been seven incidents investigated near Montbello, 12 near Abraham Lincoln and 14 near Manual, according to the website.

Civil-liberties advocates worry that cameras outside schools could infringe on privacy rights. "Surveillance cameras around school raise issues about how we think of and treat our children," said Cathryn Hazouri, director of the ACLU of Colorado. "That is certainly something that the ACLU wants to talk about with DPS and the police to find out how these cameras will be used and what impact this will have on the students' and the teachers' privacy."

# **Rocky Mountain News**

## **Friday, December 7, 2007**

### **Cameras watch 4 schools**

**John C. Ensslin**

**Friday, December 7, 2007**

Some students inside East High School pressed their faces to some upper floor

windows Thursday to watch as Denver Police and Denver Public School officials unveiled an enhanced video surveillance system.

For a brief moment, the watched were watching the watchers.

The new system makes it possible for school security officers and police to scan several blocks around four Denver high schools and to zoom in on any square foot of school grounds with a few clicks of a computer keyboard. In all, 21 new wireless video cameras have been mounted outside four high schools: East, Abraham Lincoln, Montbello and Manual.

The cameras were purchased with a \$100,000 U.S. Department of Justice grant matched by a \$100,000 contribution from Target Corp. to the HALO/Safe Cities program.

Mayor John Hickenlooper hailed the public-private partnership as a way to improve school safety.

"In the end, it can't be all the police department, it's got to be all of us taking responsibility for a safe community," he said.

Denver Police Chief Gerry Whitman said the four schools were selected after reviewing crime statistics and talking with school security officials.

The cameras will foster crime prevention and provide a valuable investigative tool after an incident, Whitman said. He said that if the pilot project works, other schools could be added to the program.

Cameras in schools are not new. In Aurora and Jefferson County Public Schools, most high schools and middle schools have closed-circuit camera systems.

In Denver, 1,400 cameras have been installed throughout the district, mostly inside buildings, said Ed Ray, head of school security. Those cameras were paid for by a 2003 voter-approved bond referendum.

All of those cameras are routed to a central security office in northeast Denver, where two employees can monitor about two to four schools at a time, Ray said.

## **9 News**

**Thursday, December 6, 2007**

# Police, schools unveil wireless surveillance camera system

written by: [Nelson Garcia](#)

<<mailto:nelson.garcia@9news.com?subject=RE:Police,%20schools%20unveil%20wireless%20surveillance%20camera%20system>> , Reporter

DENVER – If you step foot on a public school in Denver, odds are, you will be on camera. Now, there's a state-of-the-art system which will allow security officers to view live surveillance video from their cars while responding to a scene.

"We can literally pick up the school at any time during the day, 24 hours a day, to see what's going on in and about that school," said Ed Ray, chief of Safety and Security for Denver Public Schools.

Currently, DPS uses 1,400 cameras district-wide to monitor what happens in every elementary, middle, and high school. Thursday, Denver Police, DPS, the U.S. Department of Justice and the Target Corporation announced the expansion of that system to create a wireless closed circuit network. That means live surveillance video can be viewed by DPS security officers from laptops in their cars.

"Sometimes, it's kind of nice for police and security people to know what's going on inside that building before they actually have to make an entry as they're approaching in," said Ray.

The new wireless system is being expanded at four high schools as a pilot program – Montbello, Manual, East and Lincoln High Schools. It may be expanded to more schools in the future.

"These four high schools were selected after we looked at crime statistics and calls for service, other incidents," said Denver Police Chief Gerry Whitman.

Whitman says the cameras will deter crimes ranging from vandalism to serious assaults.

"We have somebody that's doing live monitoring and see something that can dispatch a car or security officer on the scene and prevent something from happening," said Whitman. "That's 90 percent of the battle right there."

The system is described as the latest in surveillance technology.

"What we've installed here at Denver Public Schools is a high resolution

day/night, black and white, dual technology camera," said Allen Halingstad, systems specialist for DPS Safety and Security. "The quality and speed was unheard of just a couple years ago."

The expansion was made possible by grants and other funds. The U.S. Department of Justice granted \$200,000. Target contributed \$100,000. The rest came from funding from Denver Police and DPS. It's all a part of what's called the H.A.L.O. – Safe City Initiative. H.A.L.O. stands for High Activity Location Observation.

"How can we make the (reach of the) police department further out and a better partner with the community and know where is more important than with our schools," said Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper.

The expansion of the camera system raises questions about whether there can be too much surveillance, creating a school environment where "big brother" is always watching.

"I don't think there can ever be a point where there's just too much," said Halingstad. "Of course, I'm speaking from a security viewpoint."

From a student viewpoint, East High Senior Nate Urig agrees.

"It's necessary cause they're wanting to... make a better campus for ourselves," he said.

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## 4 News

**Thursday, December 6, 2007**

[Mayor Shows Off Effort To Increase School Security](#)

<<http://search.cbs4denver.com/Link.ashx?R=http%3a%2f%2fcbs4denver.com%2fvideo%2f%3fid%3d37083%40kcnc.dayport.com>> (video)

Mayor John Hickenlooper helped show off a collaborative effort to increase security in schools Thursday. It involves Denver police, Denver Public Schools and Target stores