

## Simulation: School Board Meeting

You will be portraying a person attending a school board meeting. These are the roles involved in this meeting:

- School Principal
- Security Expert
- Teacher
- Parent
- Student
- Privacy Advocate

Below are several statements in favor of Facial Recognition (FR) technology and opposed to FR technology. Determine which statements would relate to your role. Include your own thoughts about the issue as well. There may be additional reasons that are not listed here.

### Statements in Favor

- FR technology quickly identifies everyone in the school as they enter the facility.
- FR technology significantly reduces the amount of time spent on attendance. This gets students to class faster and reduces paperwork logjams in the office.
- FR technology is 98% accurate, likely better than paper attendance taking.
- FR technology keeps track of who is in the building in case of an emergency.
- FR technology can identify instances of bullying, threatening, and other altercations, including quickly establishing chronological records of student movement, making students safer and maintaining discipline.
- FR technology helps school resource officers who may not have all of the hundreds of students memorized by their faces.
- FR technology can improve school safety by using artificial intelligence to identify safety threats and instantly alert everyone in the school building.
- FR technology is a constant set of eyes on the school. Surveillance cameras are only good if someone is watching them at a given time.
- FR technology can help locate students in the building, which makes it faster to contact students for an emergency or administrative need.
- FR technology can regulate access to restricted areas within a school, such as a science laboratory or faculty room, ensuring that only authorized individuals can enter.
- Advanced FR biometric technology may be able to identify instances of students experiencing health and mental health episodes, which can help them receive timely support and intervention.

### Statements Opposed

- Adopting FR technology would make the school atmosphere like a prison, with constant surveillance, making students feel like they are always doing something wrong.
- FR technology undermines trust, creating a more adversarial school environment.
- FR technology's constant surveillance can cause anxiety among students,

- potentially impacting their mental health and educational experience.
- FR technology collects constant data without continuous consent. Particularly with minors, students may not be able to give consent.
  - FR technology would retain biometric data on minors, which is information that could be breached and stolen by cyber predators.
  - FR technology may have demographic biases baked into it. Darker skin colors may not be matched as accurately as lighter faces.
  - The procedures for who gets put on a school's watch list is potentially unfair. A student could be flagged for unethical reasons, retribution, or petty revenge.
  - FR technology is a significant overapplication of invasive technology to a problem that is more of an annoyance – attendance tracking – than an actual problem.
  - FR technology invades privacy. It infringes on families' right, and students' right to privacy.
  - FR effectiveness is unproven. Even with a small percent of inaccuracy, wrong data creates a digital paper trail that can lead to long-lasting and potentially harmful consequences for students mislabeled in their permanent records.
  - FR technology is expensive, and resources might be better used on more proven methods of improving school safety and attendance.