

INTERNET SAFETY REGULATION

Internet access on the District's computer system is provided for adults and minors as a means to enhance the educational mission and instructional programs of the School System, to further District goals and objectives, and to conduct research and communicate with others. Internet access from school computers is reserved solely for educational purposes. Student access to the Internet will be under the direction and supervision of the staff assigned to the particular Internet access area or computer.

In accordance with The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), the District will use technology protection measures (i.e., filtering or blocking of access to certain material on the Internet) on all District computers with Internet access to address safety concerns regarding the online activities of minors. Consequently, the District will block or filter Internet access for both minors and adults to visual depictions that are:

1. Obscene - "Obscenity" (as defined pursuant to CIPA) is defined as any work that an average person (applying community standards) would find, taken as a whole, appeals to a prurient interest. The work must depict or describe, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct as specifically defined in state law. Moreover, the work taken as a whole, has to lack serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value.
2. Child pornographic - The term child pornographic (as defined pursuant to CIPA) is defined as any visual depiction, including a photograph, film, video, picture, or computer or computer-generated image or picture, whether made or produced by electronic, mechanical or other means, of sexually explicit conduct, where (a) the production of visual depiction involves the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct; (b) such visual depiction is or appears to be , of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct; (c) such visual depiction has been created, adapted, or modified to appear that an identifiable minor is engaging in sexually explicit conduct; or (d) such visual depiction is advertised, promoted, presented, described or distributed in such manner that conveys the impression that the material is or contains a visual depiction of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct;
3. Harmful to minors - The term "harmful to minors" is defined, pursuant to CIPA, as any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:
 - a. Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
 - b. Depicts, describes or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated, normal or perverted sexual acts, or lewd exhibitions of the genitals; and
 - c. Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

In addition, the District will filter or block minors' Internet access to other material determined to be inappropriate to minors. The determination of what is "inappropriate" for minors shall be made by the Board of Education applying local community standards.

However, no filtering technology can guarantee that adults and minors will be prevented from accessing all inappropriate locations. Proper safety procedures as deemed appropriate by the building administrator and/or Director of Technology, shall be provided to comply with the CIPA. Consequently, if District personnel and/or students find an accessed site that is questionable, the procedure is to notify

the appropriate supervisor/teacher who shall notify the appropriate Instructional Technology Department staff.

Under certain specific circumstances, the blocking or filtering technology measure may be disabled for adults engaged in bona fide research or other lawful purposes. The Superintendent or his/her designee will authorize the disabling of the blocking or filtering technology.

In the interest of safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications, appropriate supervision shall be provided by a classroom teacher and/or other appropriate District personnel; and notification shall be given to minors regarding the prohibition as to disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information regarding them. In using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications, minors are not permitted, without authorization, to reveal personal information such as home addresses, telephone numbers, their real last names or any other information, which might allow someone they are communicating with online to locate them. No minor shall arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone he/she "meets" on the computer network or Internet without his/her parent's permission. The use of e-mail and chat rooms may be blocked as deemed necessary for the safety of students.

Adults and minors shall also be informed regarding unauthorized access to District computers and the Internet, including so-called "hacking," and other unlawful activities by adults and minors while online. It is a violation of this Policy to:

1. Use the School's computer network or the Internet to gain unauthorized access to other computers or computer systems, or to attempt to gain such unauthorized access;
2. Damage, disable or otherwise interfere with the operation of computers, computer systems, software or related equipment through physical action or by electronic means; and/or
3. Violate state or federal law relating to copyright, trade secrets, the distribution of obscene or pornographic materials, or any other applicable law or municipal ordinance.

In accordance with law, The Director of Technology and other Instructional Technology Department staff may access all staff and student files, e-mail, and electronic storage areas to maintain system integrity and to determine if users are complying with the requirements of CIPA and District policy and procedures. Logs of access may be monitored in order to keep track of the sites visited by students as a measure to restrict access to material harmful to minors. Information regarding the logs will be released according to FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act).

Written: January 16, 2002