

Instruction

Internet Acceptable Use: Filtering

The Board of Education has, in part, the following responsibilities:

1. To enable students to utilize the Internet and participate in the increasingly information-based society of today;
2. To enable students to cope with the wide range and volume of material available through the Internet; and
3. To protect their students from excessively inappropriate material on the Internet for the students' age group.

Therefore, the Board directs the Superintendent to implement a system designed to filter our Internet sites with content considered unacceptable and inappropriate for student viewing. This filtering system shall be in addition to all other efforts utilized to help ensure student access to approved educational materials.

The District recognizes its responsibility to educate students regarding appropriate behavior on social networking and chat room sites about cyberbullying. Therefore, students shall be provided instruction about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking sites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[1](#) 19(b)(11) Access to public records. Exempt records.

[10](#) 15b Access of parent or guardians to student's records.

[10](#) 209 Records not to be public.

[11](#)-8a Retention, destruction and transfer of documents

[11](#)-8b Transfer or disposal of public records. State Library Board to adopt regulations.

[46b](#) 56 (e) Access to Records of Minors.

Connecticut Public Records Administration Schedule V Disposition of Education Records (Revised 1983).

Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (section 438 of the General Education Provisions Act, as amended, added by section 513 of PL 93 568, codified at 20 U.S.C. 1232g.).

Dept. of Education. 34 CFR. Part 99 (May 9, 1980 45 FR 30802) regs. implementing FERPA enacted as part of 438 of General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g) parent and student privacy and other rights with respect to educational records, as amended 11/21/96.

Public Law 106-554 Fiscal 2001 Appropriations Law containing the "Children's Internet Protection Act"

Public Law 94-553, The Copyright Act of 1976, 17 U.S.C. 101 et. seq.

HR 4577, Fiscal 2001 Appropriations Law

Public Law 110-385 Broadband Data Improvement Act/Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act

Reno v. ACLU, 521 U.S. 844 (1997)

Ginsberg v. New York, 390 U.S. 629, at 642, n.10 (1968)

Board of Education v. Pico, 457 U.S. 868 (1988)

Policy adopted: August 15, 2006

Policy revised: March 19, 2013

6141.323

Instruction

Internet Acceptable Use: Filtering

Criteria for Filtering Objectional Sites

Anything that falls under at least one of the categories below and any other sites deemed to be inappropriate or unacceptable for student viewing, shall be blocked. This list may be updated/modified as required.

Nudity/Pornography

1. Prevailing U.S. standards for nudity (e.g., genitalia, female breasts)
2. Provocative semi-nudity (e.g., lingerie models)
3. Sites which contain pornography or links to pornographic sites
4. **Exceptions:** Classical nudity (e.g., Michelangelo), swimsuit models

Sexuality

1. Sites which contain material at a level considered to be too mature for elementary and middle school students
2. Images or descriptions of sexual aids
3. Descriptions of sexual acts or techniques
4. Sites which contain inappropriate personal ads

Violence

1. Sites which promote violence
2. Images or a description of graphically violent acts (rape, dismemberment, torture, etc.)
3. Graphic autopsy or crime-scene images

Crime

1. Information of performing criminal acts (e.g., drug or bomb making, computer "hacking")
2. Illegal file archives (e.g., software piracy)

Drug Use

1. Sites which promote the use of illegal drugs
2. Material advocating the use of illegal drugs (e.g., marijuana, LSD) or abuse of any drug (e.g. drinking-game rules)
3. **Exceptions:** Material with valid educational use (e.g., drug-use statistics)

Tastelessness

1. Images or descriptions of excretory acts (e.g., vomiting, urinating)
2. Graphic medical images outside of a medical context
3. **Exception:** Graphic medical images within a medical context

Language/Profanity

1. Passages/Words too coarse to be softened by the work filter
2. Profanity within images/sounds/multimedia files
3. Adult humor (e.g., sexually or racially tinged)

NOTE: The focus is on American English, but profanity in other languages or dialects is blocked if brought to our attention.

Discrimination/Intolerance

1. Material advocating discrimination (e.g., racial or religious intolerance)
2. Sites which promote hate or discrimination

Interactive Mail/Chat

1. Sites which contain or allow inappropriate e-mail correspondence
2. Sites which contain or allow inappropriate chat areas

Inappropriate Banner Acts

1. Advertisements containing inappropriate images

Gambling

1. Sites which allow or promote online gambling

Weapons

1. Sites which promote illegal weapons
2. Sites which promote the use of illegal weapons

Other Inappropriate Material

1. Body modification: tattooing, branding, cutting, etc.

Judgment Call

1. Whether a page is likely to have more questionable material in the future (e.g., sites under construction whose names indicate questionable material)

Procedures for Suggesting Site Be Blocked Or Unblocked

If district staff members observe a site which they believe to contain inappropriate material according to the criteria provided here, they may request that the site be blocked. Education Technology staff will review the site for inappropriateness. If the site meets the criteria for filtering, steps will be taken to block the site.

Regulation approved: August 15, 2006