

Instruction

INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE: FILTERING

6141.323(a)

The Board of Education of the Fairfield Public Schools has a responsibility to:

- enable students to utilize the Internet and participate in the increasingly information-based society of today;
- enable students to cope with the wide range and volume of material available through the Internet; and
- comply with the laws governing Internet use by minors.

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

Filtering should only be viewed as one of a number of techniques used to manage students' access to Internet content and encourage acceptable usage. It should not be viewed as a foolproof approach to preventing access to inappropriate material.

Filtering will be used in conjunction with:

- educating the students and staff to be safe online:
 - Using a secure Internet connection
 - choosing strong passwords
 - enabling multi factor authentication where able and feasible
 - understanding privacy settings and terms of use
- requiring permission from the parents or guardians;
- utilizing acceptable use agreements and a *Network Code of Conduct* which prohibit the following:
 - using obscene or defamatory language;
 - damaging computers, altering computer systems, or computer networks;
 - violating copyright laws;
 - accessing offensive messages or pictures;
 - using another's password or login credentials;
 - giving out one's name, address, or phone number;
 - trespassing in another's folders, work, or files;
 - using another's folders, work, or files; and
 - intentionally wasting limited resources;
- prohibiting use of the network for commercial purposes;
- supervising students in a manner that is appropriate to their grade and is consistent with district grade level *Guidelines for Internet Use*; and
- employing disciplinary measures appropriate to the offense if violations of regulations occur.

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The placement of filters on District computers /computer systems is viewed as an exercise of the Board's ability to determine educational suitability of all material used in the schools.

Filters may be utilized with district schools to block preselected sites, block by keyword, block entire categories like chat and gaming sites and through a pre-selected list of approved sites.

Procedures for suggesting site be Blocked or Unblocked

If a district staff member observes a site which they believe contains inappropriate material, they may request the site (URL) be blocked. Technology staff will review the site for inappropriateness and take appropriate action.

If a district staff member finds a site blocked they intend to use in the classroom, or to enable access to bona fide research or other lawful purpose, the staff member may request the site be unblocked. Technology staff, and in some cases instructional leadership, will review the site and take appropriate action.

Filters will not be removed for students at any time. There are no exceptions to the statutory requirement that Internet access be blocked/filtered at all times for minors.

Adopted 8/27/2004

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