

Internet Safety and Filtering

The Internet is an important teaching tool used in Northside ISD classrooms and libraries. The Internet can, however, provide students with access to inappropriate material.

Federal law (*CIPA - Children's Internet Protection Act, 2001*) requires school districts to use "filtering" software that attempts to block access to visual depictions and descriptions that are obscene, pornographic, inappropriate for students, or harmful to minors, as defined by CIPA and as determined by the District. Therefore, all Internet access is filtered for minors and adults on computers with Internet access provided by the District. In fact, NOT doing so would result in the loss of millions of dollars to the District in federal and state funding (E-rate, Title II Part D, TEA technology grants).

If users need a site unblocked for instructional or operational purposes, or if users feel a particular site is inappropriate and needs to be blocked, users should contact the Technology Services Helpdesk at 397-7700 or send a GroupWise e-mail to the "Helpdesk" (Be sure to include the URL / Internet address.).

Websense is the Internet filtering program used by the District. "Blocking" categories are reviewed at least annually by the District. Currently, *Websense* is configured to block websites in which the **content** is categorized / classified as:

- Adult Material
- Adult Content
- Nudity
- Sex (not Sex Education)
- Lingerie and Swimsuit
- Abused Drugs
- Marijuana
- MP3 and Audio Download Services
- Gambling
- Games
- Illegal or Questionable
- Hacking
- Proxy Avoidance
- Weapons
- Sport Hunting and Gun Clubs
- Pay to Surf
- Internet Auctions
- Web Chat
- Web-based Email
- Militancy and Extremist
- Racism and Hate
- Non-Traditional Religions and Occult and Folklore
- Alcohol and Tobacco
- Gay and Lesbian or Bisexual Interest
- Personals and Dating
- Tasteless
- Violence
- Advertisements
- Malicious Websites
- Spyware
- Keyloggers
- Phishing and Other Frauds

The District has also implemented **key word filtering** associated with words used to search for inappropriate material on the Internet.

The District has also blocked access to several **image search engines** (e.g., Google Images), **video hosting** sites (e.g., YouTube), and **social networking** sites (e.g., MySpace) to reduce the possibility of students coming across inappropriate content while on the Internet.

For more information on District Internet Safety policies, please see:

- Board Policy CQ (Legal)
- Board Policy CQ (Local)
- Administrative Regulation TEC-01