

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" so that the request can be reviewed by the Internet Safety Committee. Be sure to copy and paste the block page message into the email message.

8e6 is the Internet filtering system used by the District. "Blocked" categories are reviewed annually, at a minimum, by the District.

The District has also implemented differentiating filtering policies for students and staff. Active Directory (AD) users receive their staff Internet rights automatically when they log into the network with their username and password. Non-AD users (Novell) can get their staff Internet rights through initiating a Web Access Authentication. More information on how to do this can be found at <http://www.nisd.net/technology/training> .

Currently, 8e6 is configured to block websites in which the **content** is categorized / classified as one of the categories below. These are blocked categories per the student/staff policies.

Threats Liability

Adult Content: All Users

Child Porn
Explicit Art
Obscene/Tasteless
Pornography/Adult Content
R-rated

Illegal/Questionable

Criminal Skills: All Users
Dubious/Unsavory: All Users
Hate: All Users
Illegal Drugs: All Users
School Cheating: Students
Terrorist: All Users

Security: All Users

Bad Reputation Domains
Botnet
Hacking
Malicious Code
Phishing
Spyware
Web Proxies

Bandwidth/Productivity

Bandwidth

Internet Radio: Students
Peer-to-Peer (P2P) File Sharing: All Users
Streaming Media: Students
Video Sharing: Students
Voice Over IP (VoIP): Students
Web Storage: Students

Internet Communication

Chat: All Users
Instant Messaging (IM): All Users
Message Boards: Students
Online Communities: Students
Web E-mail: All Users
Web logs/Personal Pages: Students

Internet Productivity

Adware: All Users
Banner Ads: All Users
Fantasy Sports: All Users
Free Hosts: Students
Remote Access: All Users

General Productivity

Entertainment:

Entertainment: Students
Gambling: All Users
Games: All Users
Humor: Students
Online Greeting Cards: All Users

Information Technology

Freeware/Shareware: All Users
Portals: Students

Religion/Beliefs: Students

Paranormal

Shopping: All Users

Online Auction

Society/ Lifestyles: All Users

Alcohol
Personals / Dating
Tobacco
Weapons

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 **video hosting** sites (e.g., YouTube, for students) and **social networking** sites (e.g., MySpace, for students) to reduce the possibility of accessing inappropriate content while on the Internet.

Specific **Image Search Engines** (e.g., Google Images and Yahoo Images) have been opened up for use since the filtering system is able to enforce the Safe Search features provided by these engines. Unsafe image search engines remain blocked due to unfiltered and inappropriate content being returned to the user.

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

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