

CATASAUQUA AREA

TITLE: Internet Filtering/
Blocking

SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADOPTED: September 10, 2001

REVISED: November 10, 2005

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Internet Filtering/Blocking		1
Authority	The Catasauqua Area School District recognizes that in utilizing the Internet, children can be exposed to material that could be termed as harmful to minors.	2
Children’s Internet Protection Act, (2001)		3
Neighborhood Protection Act (2001)		4
PL 106-554		5
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	Questionable web sites are reviewed utilizing a third party patented search array, and once verified as questionable (in category by the third party vendor) the site is precluded from future network access. The following categories of content are blocked on CASD-EN; Criminal Skills, Hate Groups, Obscene and Tasteless, Pornography, R-Rated, Web Based E-Mail, Web Based Newsgroups, Games, Mud’s (Multi User Domains), Cults, Drugs, Alcohol, Alternate Lifestyles, Anarchy, Gambling, Personals and Chat.	11
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	Adult members of the educational staff can (for bona fide educational research purposes only) request access to Internet sites and/or material that is blocked. Requests will be reviewed individually; however, the final decision remains with the Superintendent. Similarly, members of the educational staff can request the blocking of sites and/or material, however the final decision remains with the school Superintendent.	21
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	Internet filtering is intended to reduce the likelihood of users accessing visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic, and other materials that could be considered harmful to minors. Catasauqua Area School District claims no guarantee that all visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic, and other materials that could be considered harmful to minors are exclusively filtered.	31
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	The board directs the Superintendent, to ensure the “reasonable public notice” requirement of the law is complied with, to place this policy in the district’s annual Fall newsletter.	39
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Definition of Terms:

18 U.S.C.
1460 et. seq.
413 U.S.
15 (1973)

1. Obscenity – The federal obscenity statute cited in CIPA does not itself contain an express definition of obscenity. However, the Supreme Court (in Miller Vs. California, 413 U.S. 15 (1973)) has established a test for obscenity that is not implicitly incorporated into the federal statute:
 - a. Whether “the average person, applying contemporary community standards,” would find that the material, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest;
 - b. whether the work depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically defined by the applicable state or federal law to be obscene; and
 - c. whether the work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.
2. Child Pornography – The federal child pornography statute, 18 U.S.C. 2256, defines “child pornography” as “any visual depiction” of a minor under 18 years old engaging in “sexually explicit conduct,” which includes “actual or simulated” sexual intercourse, bestiality, masturbation, sadistic or masochistic abuse, or “lascivious exhibition of the genitals or pubic area.” The statute’s definition includes not only actual depictions of sexually explicit conduct involving minors, but also images that “appear to be” minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct.
3. Harmful to Minors – The act defines “harmful to minors” 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 a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
 - c. taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.”
4. Minor – The act defines “minor” as an individual who has not attained the age of 17.

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