

Overview of CIPA, COPPA, and FERPA

Note: This overview is not meant to provide legal advice.

CIPA

CIPA – Children’s Internet Protection Act -- governs the filtering of Internet access; acceptable use; and digital citizenship education

Federal Agency with Oversight – Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

District Oversight / Responsibility:

- Technology Services manages technology protection measures;
- District staff, including teachers and support staff, are responsible for monitoring student use of district technology resources and educating students about proper online behavior

Violation of CIPA could result in the loss of eRate funds for the district

CIPA requires the district to

- Use a “technology protection measure” (Internet filter) to filter all Internet-connected devices and block access to visual depictions deemed “obscene,” “child pornography,” or “harmful to minors”
 - Filter can be disabled for adults for “bona fide research or other lawful purpose”
 - Under the law, “minor” is defined as “individual who has not attained the age of 17”
- Adopt and enforce an Internet Safety Policy. Policy must address
 - Monitoring of online activities
 - Safety and security of all forms of direct electronic communications
 - Unauthorized online access (hacking and other unlawful activities)
 - Unauthorized disclosure or personal identification information
- Educate students about appropriate online behavior (Digital Citizenship)

Resources:

- Federal Register -- <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-09-13/pdf/2011-23267.pdf>
- Children’s Internet Protection Act from eRate Central -- http://e-ratecentral.com/CIPA/Childrens_Internet_Protection_Act.pdf
- FCC Consumer Guide on CIPA -- <http://transition.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/cipa.pdf>
- CIPA Policy Primer from eRate Central -- http://e-ratecentral.com/CIPA/cipa_policy_primer.pdf