

CIPA Filter Policy

In compliance with the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA), Fargo Public School District Internet traffic is run through the State of North Dakota K-12 Internet Filter. This device by default filters the minimum categories of web traffic to comply with the CIPA regulations. These categories include (but are not limited to) sites containing pornography.

In addition to the CIPA filtering provided by the state, the Fargo Public School District loads an additional filter on all student devices that is active both in and out of school. This filter restricts access to online resources that contain objectionable material, entertainment and gaming websites lacking educational value, and platforms conducive to inappropriate student interactions, such as harassment or cyberbullying.

Staff members can request the blocking or unblocking of a specific website by contacting the Information Technology System Administrator responsible for maintaining the filter. The Systems Administrator will evaluate these requests, considering various factors. In cases where conflicting requests are received, a discussion will be initiated to facilitate resolution. These discussions often lead to a mutually agreeable solution. If needed, the Systems Administrator may consult with the IT Director for further guidance in making the final decision.

Additionally, a process exists for staff members to challenge any implemented filtering decision. A subcommittee of the Fargo Public School District Technology Group meets as needed to review and act on any challenge. Students cannot directly challenge filtering decisions, but a staff member can make a challenge to a filtering decision on behalf of a student.

The Fargo Public School District does not permit a staff member to allow students physical access to a computer that has had the additional filtering categories unblocked. Instead, they may use their discretion to display content from unblocked websites to students when deemed necessary for educational purposes.

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