

SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT
Salem, Connecticut

INSTRUCTION

INTERNET SAFETY: FILTERING

Preface

A system designed to filter out Internet sites containing materials that are obscene, pornographic, harmful or inappropriate for student, as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act and as determined by the Superintendent or his/her designee will be implemented. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall enforce the use, at all times, of such filtering devices. This filtering system shall be in addition to all other efforts utilized to help ensure student access to approved educational materials.

Definitions

1. Obscene is to be determined by the following test:
 - Whether the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find the work, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest;
 - whether the work depicts sexual conduct in a patently offensive way; and
 - whether the work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.
2. Child Pornography, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 2256 means any visual depiction, including any photograph, film, video, picture, or computer or computer-generated image or picture, whether made or produced by electronic, mechanical, or other means, of sexually explicit conduct, where:
 - The production of such visual depiction involves the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct;
 - Such visual depiction is, or appears to be, of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct;
 - Such visual depiction has been created, adapted, or modified to appear that an identifiable minor is engaging in sexually explicit conduct; or
 - Such visual depiction is advertised, promoted, presented, described, or distributed in such a manner that conveys the impression that the material is or contains a visual depiction of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct.
3. Material "Harmful to Minors" is any picture, graphic image file or other visual depiction that:
 - Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex or excretion;

- Depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable to minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual conduct, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
- Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value to minors.

Procedures for suggesting site be blocked or unblocked

There are no exceptions to the requirement that Internet access be blocked/filtered at all times for minors.

If District staff members observe a site which they believe to contain inappropriate material according to the criteria provided here, they must make a written request to the school administration within one day that the site (URL) be reviewed for appropriateness and be blocked. Upon receipt of request the school administration will block the site pending further review. This request must include the location of the site and the perceived violation of the criteria listed below. Administrative staff will review the site for inappropriateness. If the site meets the criteria for filtering, steps will be taken to permanently block the site.

If a member of the certified staff feels that a blocked site needs to be unblocked for purposes of instruction consistent with the established district curriculum, this staff member must submit a written request to the school administration a minimum of two weeks prior. This request must include the name of the site, the instructional purpose and related curricular objective(s)/concepts. The decision of the school administration regarding the block is final.

Criteria for Filtering of Objectionable Sites

Any inappropriate material shall be blocked/filtered. This will include, but not be limited to, the following:

Nudity / Pornography

- Prevailing U.S. standards for nudity (e.g., genitalia, female breasts)
- Provocative semi-nudity (e.g., lingerie models)
- Sites which contain pornography or links to pornographic sites
- Exceptions: Classical nudity (e.g., Michelangelo), swimsuit models

Sexuality

- Sites which contain material of a mature level (elementary/middle school levels)
- Images or descriptions of sexual aids
- Descriptions of sexual acts or techniques
- Sites which contain inappropriate personal ads

Violence

- Sites which promote violence
- Images or a description of graphically violent acts (rape, dismemberment, torture, etc.)
- Graphic autopsy or crime-scene images

Crime

- Information of performing criminal acts (e.g., drug or bomb making, computer “hacking”)
- Illegal file archives (e.g., software piracy)

Drug Use

- Sites which promote the use of illegal drugs
- Material advocating the use of illegal drugs (e.g., marijuana, LSD) or abuse of any drug
- Exceptions: Material with valid educational use (e.g., drug-use statistics)

Tastelessness

- Images or descriptions of excretory acts (e.g., vomiting, urinating)
- Graphic medical images outside of a medical context
- Exception: Graphic medical images within a medical context

Language / Profanity

- Passages/Words too coarse to be softened by the word filter
- Profanity within images/sounds/multimedia files
- Adult humor (e.g., sexually or racially tinged)

NOTE: The focus is on American English, but profanity in other languages or dialects is blocked if brought to our attention.

Discrimination/Intolerance

- Material advocating discrimination (e.g., racial or religious intolerance)
- Sites which promote intolerance, hate, or discrimination

Interactive Mail / Chat

- Sites which contain or allow inappropriate e-mail correspondence
- Sites which contain or allow inappropriate chat areas

Inappropriate Banner Ads

- Advertisements containing inappropriate images

Gambling

- Sites which allow or promote online gambling

Weapons

- Sites which promote illegal weapons
- Sites which promote the use of illegal weapons

Other Inappropriate Material

- Body modification: tattooing, branding, cutting, etc.

Judgment Calls

- Whether a page is likely to have more questionable material in the future (e.g., sites under construction whose names indicate questionable material)

Procedure Approved: August 16, 2004

Revised Procedure 1st Reading: March 2, 2006

Revised Procedure Adopted: March 20, 2006

jlk