

STUDENTS	J
INTERNET FILTERING POLICY	JG

1. Definitions

In accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), Lincoln Public Schools are required to have in place a filtering device on all computers with Internet access. The filter should protect minors from access to visual depictions that are obscene, constitute child pornography, or that are harmful to minors, **as defined in CIPA** below:

- a. Harmful to minors, means any picture, image, 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 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
 - taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

2. Requests to Unblock Websites

- a. Websites may be unblocked in certain circumstances for anyone who meets the following criteria:
 - Educational purposes – there is educational material being blocked by the filtering system. Where access to a specific site consistent with the purpose of education is blocked, the site may be unblocked.
 - Staff-related purposes – a staff member needs a website unblocked that is related to their job (such as purchasing, or bona fide research).
- b. Any person requesting to have a site unblocked should submit a formal request to their building administrator via email. The request submission will include:
 - Date of the request
 - URL of a website to be unblocked
 - Purpose of unblocking the website
 - Duration
- c. Building administrators will forward the request to Lincoln Public Schools IT staff via online ticket system.
- d. If there is no threat to the network or district resources, IT staff will unblock the site as requested.

3. Denied Requests

- a. If a request to unblock a website is denied, the denier will provide the specific reasons as to why the request was denied to the requestor.
- b. Appeals will be made through normal district communication channels requesting that the denial be overturned.

4. Reporting

- a. The IT staff will maintain a log of requests to unblock a website and make that log available to Lincoln Public School district administration upon request.

Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 16-21.61-1

First Reading: March 12, 2018
 Second Reading: April 9, 2018
 Policy Adopted: April 9, 2018
 Reviewed: October 21, 2024