

**SCARBOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
GO GUARDIAN FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

As of July 1, 2025

As part of our district-wide efforts to keep our students safe and engaged while online, and comply with the Child Internet Protection Act and other federal and state mandates, Scarborough School District uses a suite of tools from GoGuardian. This solution provides a layer of internet browsing monitoring and filtering, as well as the ability for the district to block potentially harmful and/or inappropriate websites while students use their Scarborough School District account. Please continue reading through this document for answers to frequently asked questions regarding GoGuardian.

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**Q. What is GoGuardian?**

A. GoGuardian is an internet filtering and monitoring application designed for K12 schools to provide a safe, engaging and effective online learning environment for students. The application is used to block content that is inappropriate, obscene or otherwise harmful to minors. GoGuardian is compliant with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Children’s Online Privacy and Protection Rule (COPPA) and all applicable state-level student data privacy laws.

Within Scarborough School District (SSD), GoGuardian is applied to each district-issued student device. Not only does the application help to keep our students safe, but it also protects our network systems from potential risks and threats.

**Q. Why do we need this?**

- A. The Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) mandates that schools and libraries receiving federal funding must implement internet safety policies and technology measures to block access to obscene material, child pornography and other content considered harmful to minors on school and library owned computers. Essentially, CIPA requires Scarborough School District (SSD) to provide monitoring and filtering for inappropriate content for students while using District-owned assets.

Families with students who are issued a school-owned device are required to sign the Chromebook Care Use & Responsibilities Guide – this guide underscores the mandatory web filtering for students, and refers to the Computer and Internet Use Policies and Regulations (IJNDB and IJNDB-R) which outline our mandatory filtering and monitoring.

**Q. How does it work?**

- A. GoGuardian is installed through an extension on the student’s district-owned device and provides filtering and monitoring on student web browsing. Filtered categories include violence, gambling, weapons, sexually explicit content, and drugs and alcohol. GoGuardian also monitors student Gmail and Google Drives for content related to the aforementioned restricted categories.

Should a student attempt to browse to a restricted site or use restricted content, an alert is sent to a GoGuardian administrator, who then reviews the alert and related context. The administrator may then contact the student and/or student’s guardians if deemed necessary.

**Q. Does GoGuardian work when the student is not on campus?**

- A. If the student is logged onto a district-owned device at home, their activity is still monitored through GoGuardian.

Please note – if a student is logged into their SSD Google account on a personal device, their browsing and content within that SSD instance will still be monitored. Guardians are encouraged to make certain that their student logs out of any personal device at home when not engaged in school activity.

**Q. Is GoGuardian always filtering and alerting?**

- A. Yes, GoGuardian filters and alerts 24/7/365.

However - it is important to note that although GoGuardian is always active, alerts are not monitored by SSD 24/7/365.

**Q. Who can view a student's GoGuardian logs?**

- A. School Principals and Assistant Principals receive and review alerts and have access to GoGuardian logs within their phase level. In some phases levels there may also be a student advocate assigned to review alerts.

Principals, Assistant Principals and dedicated student advocates are not permitted to view information for students they do not supervise within their phase level.

Senior Network personnel in the Technology & Information Services Department may also retrieve logs if needed, but do not actively monitor the audit logs.

**Q. Where is GoGuardian data stored?**

- A. GoGuardian data is stored on dedicated, secure servers through Amazon Web Services (AWS), within the United States. Data is stored for six months, then permanently deleted.

**Q. Can a student opt-out of GoGuardian?**

- A. No, users cannot opt-out of GoGuardian on SSD owned assets. CIPA requires Scarborough School District (SSD) to provide monitoring and filtering for inappropriate content for students while using District-owned assets.