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Revision of Policies ILC & ILD

Emaleigh Wilson, Jim Hill High School

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Policy References

1. Policy ILC- Technology and Instruction / Electronic Information Resources
2. Policy ILD- Internet Safety Policy

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Brief Explanation

1. These policies explain the following Jackson Public School District's beliefs:
   a. All students, faculty, and staff have the right to access the internet through the JPS network
   b. The usage of the internet should be conducive to the learning environment and should not compromise the safety of its participants.

Legal Statutes

These policies are required via the Children's Internet Protection Act encacted by the United States Congress in 2000.

It mandates that schools adopt and implement an internet safety policy adressing:

1. Access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet;
2. The safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communications;
3. Unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking," and other unlawful activities by minors online;
4. Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors; and
5. Measures restricting minors' access to materials harmful to them.

Federal Communications Commission. "Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)." *Federal Communications Commission*, 30 Dec. 2019, www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/childrens-internet-protection-act.

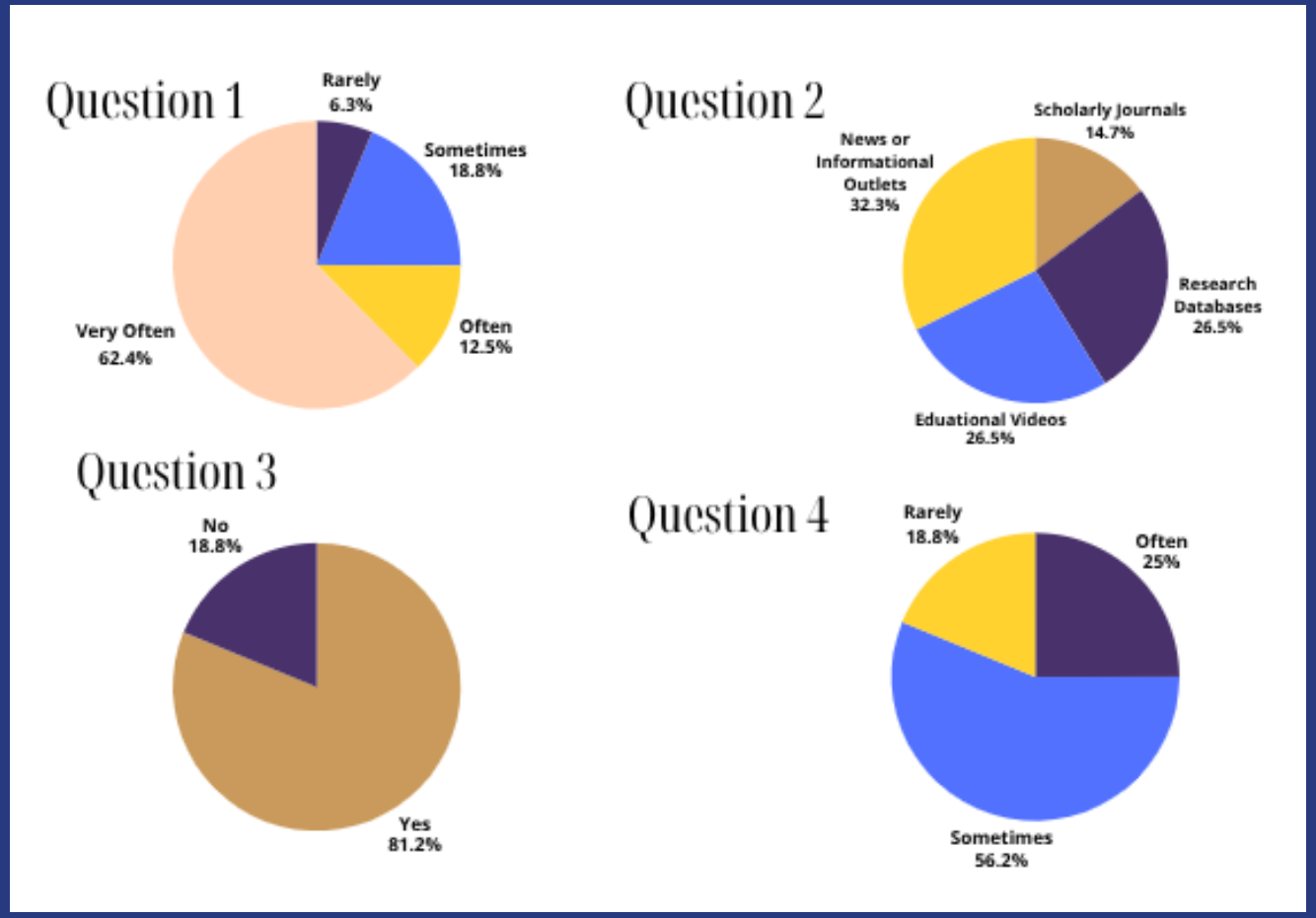
Proposed Questions

1. How often do you encounter blocked websites while completing schoolwork?

1. What types of sites have been blocked for you?

1. Have you ever been blocked from a resource specifically assigned and/or recommended by a teacher?

1. How often do content restrictions prevent you from completing assignments during class?



Student Feedback

1. Describe how content restrictions have affected your ability to effectively use school time.
   a. “They have affected my ability by having me try and fit work into busy home life schedule, causing me to stay up past 1 o’clock doing work that could’ve been done in class if my resources were not blocked.”
   b. I usually have to use my hotspot but with the phone policy I struggle to even use that to complete work.
   c. Limits most websites I’ve used for my IA making me have to change them. One time it stated “unlawful information present” on a site about the connection between psychology and body standards.
2. What changes would you suggest to improve access while still keeping students safe?
   a. Come up with a new method on blocking “bad things”
   b. I suggest that there be a specific blocked cites list instead of a list that blocks all cites with certain words/information.
   c. Leave options for us to bypass things when we actually need them.

JPS Current Solutions and Impacts

“If a user believes a site has been erroneously blocked, the user should follow the procedures outlined on the web filter block page in order to have the web site reviewed. Asking for a site to be unblocked does not guarantee the site will be unblocked.”

JPS Technology Handbook | 6 Revised 7/2022

There is no clear definition of a “web filter block page” nor where to access it (it is not located in the JPS Technology Handbook).

The process will take longer than needed and there is no guarantee that the site will be unblocked.

JPS Current Solutions and Impacts

Bypass the wifi by using a personal hotspot or personal device.

Both are prohibited by the Jackson Public School District Electronic Device Policy.

Policy Revision Proposal

I propose that the district review the methods in which it monitors and filters the internet within schools by doing the following:

- ➔ Look into tools specifically designed for classrooms and professional spaces with these problems.
  - ◆ Blocksi
  - ◆ Hāpara
  - ◆ Gaggle Web Filter
    - Gaggle continuously updates to keep pace with new websites and these platforms allow instructors to monitor student activity in real-time while evaluating actual page content, not just URLs.



Policy Revision Proposal

I propose that the district review the methods in which it monitors and filters the internet within schools by doing the following:

- ➔ Provide vetted, allotted resources for students to use
  - Databases through Clever
  - Online libraries
  - Video libraries



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Thank You!