Student Device Management & Internet Filtering

Methacton School District

Layered Protection: Devices · Content · Network

Why & How We Filter

Required by the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and Board Policy 815, Acceptable Use of Communications and Information Systems.

Device Management

Centrally managed and secured through Google Workspace.

Network Firewall Filtering

Filters all devices on our network — not just Chromebooks.

Web Content Filtering

Filters web traffic by category in real time — tied to the device, on or off our network.

Student Devices: Device Management

Chromebooks are centrally managed, secured, and kept up to date through Google Workspace.

THE SAME FOR EVERY STUDENT

Device Sign-In

Approved Apps & Extensions

SafeSearch

ACCESS THAT EXPANDS BY GRADE

YouTube Access

- **K–8** — Strict
- **High School** — Moderate

Student Email

- **Elementary** — Staff only
- **Arcola / Skyview** — Staff, students & approved domains
- **High School** — Unrestricted

What Gets Filtered

A web content filter categorizes sites automatically and matches against district rules in real time.

Mature Content

Pornography, gambling, drugs & alcohol

Violence & Weapons

Weapons, violence & extremist content

Security Risks

Malware, phishing & anonymizer tools

Social Media

Facebook, Instagram, X & similar sites

AI Content Tools

AI text, image & video tools, except Gemini

Forums & Chat

Unmoderated forums & anonymous chat

Games

All games, blocked district-wide

Unknown Sites

Unclassified sites, blocked by default

A network firewall blocks similar categories for every device on the network – not just Chromebooks.

What's New: Smarter Bypass Detection

A REAL EXAMPLE — SITES.GOOGLE.COM

Before Bypass Detection - Reactive

sites.google.com - **ALLOWED**
sites.google.com/view/ubg66/ *(game site)* - **ALLOWED**
sites.google.com/classroom.center/view/sandbox *(game site)* - **ALLOWED**

Game sites were hard to identify by URL alone.

After Bypass Detection - Proactive

sites.google.com - **ALLOWED**
sites.google.com/view/ubg66/ *(game site)* - **BLOCKED**
sites.google.com/classroom.center/view/sandbox *(game site)* - **BLOCKED**

Bypass Detection now inspects these pages directly and blocks them automatically.

No Filter Is Perfect: Families Can Help

No filter catches everything on a constantly changing internet.

Report a Site of Concern

PowerSchool Parent Portal → Forms

Regular Provider Check-Ins

Settings reviewed on a regular basis.

HOW WE FILTER

Manage Devices

Filter Content

Filter the Network

Families Help