



Cache County School District

Policy Series 4000: Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment

Policy No. 4610 P1

Internet Access and Filtering

Definitions

- 1) "Inappropriate matter" means pornographic or indecent material as defined in Subsection 76-10-1235(1)(a) and Section 53G-10-103 of Utah Code.
- 2) "Preapproved content filtering system" means a method of internet access control that permits use only of the websites or online resources the local school board or school administrator preapproves (colloquially referred to as an "allow-list only" or "walled garden" setting) as per Utah Code § 53G-7-1003(1)(c).
- 3) "Parent-accessible monitoring system" means a technology platform that enables a parent to review the real-time and historical browsing activity of their student on school-managed devices as per Utah Code § 53G-7-1003(1)(a).
- 4) "District-owned device" means any electronic device (Chromebook, laptop, tablet, etc.) issued, provided, or lent by the district or individual school to a student or employee.
- 5) "District Content Review Committee" means Directors of Technology and Teaching and Learning or their designees.

The internet provides a wealth of educational resources. Unfortunately, the internet also contains inappropriate content. The Cache County School District strives to provide a safe environment for both staff and students, but recognizes that no system is 100% safe.

Filtering and Blocking

1) Baseline Blocklist

- a) The Cache County School District utilizes network-level and device-level filtering software to block access to inappropriate or harmful material. The system is configured to permanently block:
 - i) pornographic, obscene, or indecent content (as defined by state and federal standards);
 - ii) gambling;
 - iii) weapons and guns (except where validated for educational, historically-focused research);
 - iv) malicious content (including malware, spyware, phishing, and filter-bypassing tools like VPNs);
 - v) alcohol, tobacco, and drug content:
 - (1) access to sites promoting, selling, or encouraging the use of alcohol, tobacco, vaping, and illegal drugs is strictly blocked on all elementary, middle, and high school devices; and
 - vi) secondary research exception: In grades 9–12, high school administrators may authorize temporary, supervised, category-level bypasses for students engaged in specific, documented academic research (e.g., health class research on drug abuse prevention).

(1) Such exceptions shall be requested via the “Content Filter Request” form by the certified educator overseeing the curriculum, and shall be approved by the principal and the teaching and learning department designee.

(a) Exceptions of this nature will be applied to the specific school and graduation year, or more granularly as permitted by current district filtering technology.

2) Administrative Discretion

a) District administration reserves the right to block any website or web-based service without prior notification if it is determined to:

- i) present clear harm to students;
- ii) lacks educational value;
- iii) lacks alignment with district curriculum standards; or
- iv) is otherwise inappropriate in a school setting.

Parental Control and Transparency

To comply with Utah Code § 53G-7-1003, the district provides parents/guardians with two distinct mechanisms of oversight:

1) Parent-Accessible Monitoring Portal

a) The district shall provide all parents/guardians, upon request, with a personal account to the district-adopted monitoring portal.

i) Due to privacy requirements, only parents/guardians who opt in to having their personal data shared with the third-party monitoring portal will have an account created.

b) Through this portal, parents may view a log of their child’s browsing history, searches, and flagged activity on district-owned devices, both on and off-campus.

2) Opt-In Preapproved Content Filtering Option ("Walled Garden")

a) A parent/guardian may submit a written request via the district Opt-In Form to transition their child's district-owned device to the highly restrictive "Preapproved Content Filtering System."

b) Under this setting, the device will be blocked from accessing the open internet. Access is strictly limited to the Board-Adopted Educational Allow-List (see Section 3.0).

3) Preapproved Content Filtering System Baseline

a) To establish a legally compliant, manageable, and highly safe "Preapproved Content Filtering System" for parents who opt in, Cache County School District restricts access to the following resources. Any site or category listed below is allowed by default:

- i) educational;
- ii) news;
- iii) government;
- iv) business,
- v) core instructional systems:

(1) District Learning Management System (Canvas - ccsdut.instructure.com);

- (2) student information system (PowerSchool parent/student portal - <https://powerschool.ccsdut.org>); and
 - (3) GoGuardian or other district-approved classroom management sites; and
 - (4) CCSD official website and subdomains (*.ccsdut.org);
- vi) State-sponsored and curricular resources:
 - (1) SafeUT;
 - (2) Utah State Board of Education (USBE) Portals (*.utah.gov);
 - (3) Utah's online school library (Utah Compose, Gale Databases); and
 - (4) Certified curriculum platforms actively adopted by CCSD (e.g., Lexia, Nearpod, i-Ready, McGraw-Hill, Pearson);
- vii) Google Workspace for Education (Core Services Only):
 - (1) Google Docs, Sheets, Slides, Drive, and Classroom;
 - (2) Access to Google Workspace is locked exclusively to district-managed student accounts (@student.ccsdut.org); and
 - (3) Google Search is locked to strict "SafeSearch" by network enforcement.
- b) With current technology, the district cannot block uncategorized sites, as many sites in this area are used for normal "internet" functionality, and blocking the uncategorized category leads to massive connectivity issues.
 - i) As technology evolves, blocking of the uncategorized will be evaluated for effectiveness.
- c) Categories and sites currently not listed but are determined by Teaching and Learning as required resources for instruction may be added to the "Preapproved Content Filtering System" without notice.

Content Requests, Appeals, and Complaint Pathways

The district provides a transparent and structured mechanism for requesting changes to the filter or addressing grievances regarding policy application.

1) Public Contact Form

- a) The district shall maintain a prominent online "Internet Filtering Contact Form" on the CCSD website, through which staff, parents, students, and community members can submit requests to block content, appeal blocked sites (unblock), or file policy complaints.

2) Submission Pathways

- a) Staff and Students:
 - i) Staff member and student requests will be directed to the school administration for initial review before a recommendation to the District Content Review Committee.
- b) Parents and General Public
 - i) Requests to block or unblock sites submitted by parents or members of the public must be facilitated through the local School Community Council (SCC) for the school their child attends or the school boundaries in which the individual resides.

- (1) The request will be directed to the school administrator who sits on the SCC.
- (2) The SCC will review the request during a scheduled meeting to determine its educational relevance and forward its official recommendation to the Cache County School District Content Review Committee.

3) Evaluation

- a) Requests will be evaluated and fulfilled by the content review committee in accordance with the Content Filter Rubric Procedure.

Compliance and Enforcement

1) Misuse and Bypasses

- a) Any attempt by students or staff to bypass district filters using proxies, anonymizers, personal hotspots, VPNs, or secondary browser settings is a direct violation of Policy 4600 (Technology Acceptable Use) and this procedure, and is subject to immediate disciplinary action.

2) Access

- a) Schools shall provide access to these applicable policies and procedures upon request.

3) Policy Application Complaints

- a) Pursuant to Utah law, if a parent, student, or staff member believes the filtering policy is not being applied correctly at a specific school, they may submit an official complaint via the online Contact Form or the Report a Concern Form.
 - i) Complaints are routed to the school administration and the district Director of Technology for formal investigation and resolution.
 - ii) Complaints may be based on:
 - (1) the policy;
 - (2) the enforcement of the policy; and/or
 - (3) observed behavior.

Updated: October 15, 2026