

Maine School Administrative District #75 Internet Safety Plan

Introduction. The District has taken reasonable precautions to restrict access to "harmful matter" and to materials that do not support approved educational objectives. However, on a public network, it is impossible to control all materials. While the list of "blocked" sites is updated continually via subscription, it is nearly impossible to list all inappropriate sites.

The teacher/staff will choose resources on the Internet that are appropriate for classroom instruction and/or research for the needs, maturity and ability of their students. The District takes no responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information from Internet sources. Use of any information obtained through the Internet is at the user's risk.

Requirements. The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) has three requirements.

1. Technology Protection Measure (Filtering)
2. Internet Safety Policy
3. Public Meeting on the Internet Safety Policy

To comply with these requirements the District has a technology protection measure in place, a board adopted Acceptable Use Policy, and has provided public meetings on the policy.

Technology Protection Measure (Filtering). The District utilizes Websense Enterprise web filtering for Microsoft Internet Security and Acceleration server. The system is updated daily to ensure the maximum protection is available from the vendor. Included is an Internet Monitoring system tracking usage and potential problem areas with the filters. All Internet activity is monitored by the system. Content filtering is based on 90 customizable categories identifying more than 20 million sites. Requests for Internet access are directed to the system and are checked against outgoing rules before access is allowed.

Internet users are provided access based on a foundational set of Internet access privileges established by the Board and Superintendent at the district level and additional access rules appropriate to each school by the Principal. On Windows computers Internet access privileges are granted based on the individual logon account for the Windows session. The user account used to access the computer is automatically passed to the content filter to provide Internet access. Apple computer users are provided a login screen when accessing Internet resources. In both cases the system customizes Internet access based on a predefined rule set for the logged in user.

Inappropriate sites that are accessed because they are not on the filter list are manually added to the system and reported to the vendor. Sites that are blocked are reported to the user with a detailed message including the site URL and a reason code identifying the rule and category, as well as how to report a site that is mistakenly categorized and a procedure to request removal of restrictions for specific sites. The system also allows for limited use of some sites based on a timed quota.

Internet Safety Policy. The policy is available online at <http://www.link75.org/helpdesk/techplan/policyacceptable.pdf>

Public Meeting on the Internet Safety Policy. A district wide meeting regarding the policy was held at Mt Ararat Middle School. Additional public meetings were held and televised on public access television regarding the policy during the policy approval process during several school board meetings. Subsequent meetings and notices regarding the policy and the status of the technology protection measures are a routine practice. During 2007 the school board began a review of student and staff related technology policies.

Information on the Children's Internet Protection Act can be found at: www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/cipa.html