

Internet Safety Plan for Austin Independent School District

Purpose:

Pursuant to the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)], Austin ISD implements procedures that provide for the safety and security of all users of the District's technology resources. Security measures include monitoring online activities on the district's network; restricting access to materials that are harmful to minors; and annually educating all users on District policy and acceptable use guidelines with emphasis on ethical and safe use.

Network Usage Monitoring and Filtering

Electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of electronic communications shall not be considered confidential and may be monitored at any time by designated staff to ensure appropriate use and steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of all users of the Austin ISD network.

Inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking", and other unlawful activities; (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personally identifying information; and (c) vandalism of electronic communication systems or equipment. [See Board Policy CQ]

Access to Inappropriate Material

Technology protection measures (or "Internet filters") shall be used to block or filter Internet or other forms of electronic communications to prevent access to inappropriate information. Specifically, as required by CIPA, restricting access to materials that are harmful to minors shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors. Subject to committee review and approval, internet filtering may be disabled, for an adult, for bona fide research or other lawful purposes. [See Board Policy CQ]

Education, Supervision and Monitoring

It shall be the responsibility of Austin ISD staff to educate, supervise and monitor appropriate usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with Board Policy CQ, this Internet Safety Plan, the Children's Internet Protection Act, the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act, and the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act.

Education will be designed to promote the district's commitment to:

1. The standards and acceptable use of the District's technology resources as set forth in the district's Internet Safety Plan, Board Policy, and Acceptable Use Guidelines;
2. Student safety with regard to
 - a. safety on the Internet
 - b. appropriate behavior while on online, on social networking web sites, and in chat rooms
 - c. cyber bullying awareness and response

Additional measures currently in place include:

- Parents/guardians of all AISD students must sign an SR290 form at registration that informs them of the district's technology resources policy and acceptable use guidelines.

- All educators must have a signed parent permission to post a picture or last name of their student.
- The district provides a classroom management software tool to all campuses that allows teachers to block individual sites from the computers in their classrooms. If an educator would like to have a site blocked or unblocked they can write an email to 'filter' within AISD with an explanation of educational value for students.
- Cyber safety information is available to students and their parents at <http://cybersafety.austinisd.org>.
- The district's Acceptable Use Policy is signed yearly by students and their parents/guardians.
- Each year the district provides staff training for ethical and safe use of technology resources and provides specific training to teachers, principals and staff who supervise children.
- The district adheres to the Computer Equipment Safe Use Validation Standard which delineates safe use of district equipment on the AISD network.

CIPA definitions of terms:

MINOR. The term "minor" means any individual who has not attained the age of 17 years.

TECHNOLOGY PROTECTION MEASURE. The term "technology protection measure" means a specific technology that blocks or filters Internet access to visual depictions that are:

1. OBSCENE, as that term is defined in section 1460 of title 18, United States Code;
2. CHILD PORNOGRAPHY, as that term is defined in section 2256 of title 18, United States Code; or harmful to minors.
3. HARMFUL TO MINORS. The term "harmful to minors" means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:
 - a. Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
 - b. Depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
 - c. Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

SEXUAL ACT; SEXUAL CONTACT. The terms "sexual act" and "sexual contact" have the meanings given such terms in section 2246 of title 18, United States Code.