

Internet Filtering Procedures:

As a District we place a very high importance on providing an educational environment that is focused on the safety and well-being of our students.

The Internet is such a vast and expanding repository of every conceivable topic that sifting out what is appropriate can be a daunting task. To this end the District has employed the use of an Internet Filtering Appliance. The District iBoss Internet filter is tasked with filtering in what is good and filtering out what is bad. This platform is capable of many levels of filtering over a variety of Internet services. Broad Web Categories are set for blanket filtering such as 'Adult Content', 'pornography/nudity', 'private websites', or 'gun & weapons'. There are numerous Web Categories to choose to either allow or block. We block some and allow others. For instance we allow Web Categories 'Government', 'Technology', and 'Transportation' but block 'Violence & Hate' and 'Image/Video Search'. The Web Category database is updated daily from the iBoss service. Hundreds of sites are associated with the various Categories with each update.

We also block sites according to application type. Chat, Gaming, and File Sharing applications are blocked from being used. If a website is considered a social media site it is also blocked.

There is a pre-defined list of Keywords of an adult or high-risk nature that if used in a search string or found in a search result will trigger the filter to block the content from displaying in the web page.

Our iBoss filter is very flexible and gives us the ability to unblock specific sites that may fall into one of the filtering rules even though they may contain relevant material for educational purposes. Conversely we can also block specific sites if they are found to be of no educational value or inappropriate for our students. Web filtering is a moving target and can sometimes be difficult to manage. The sheer number of sites added to the Internet each day makes it a daunting and never-ending endeavor.

We have two filtering groups, Staff and Students.

The Staff filtering group is a little less stringent on the areas that it filters. This allows our staff members to preview sites that may be blocked and recommend those they feel are appropriate for their students. They can then notify the Curriculum Department of the site. The Curriculum Department will evaluate the site and approve or disapprove the site for filtering.

The Student filtering group is configured with a tighter filtering level and is applied to all students in the District. This includes filtering above the requirements to meet the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).