

## Internet Safety Policy

### Statement

In accordance with The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), it is the policy of the Manchester Public Schools to implement technology protection measures that block access to inappropriate matter such as child pornography, visual depictions of material deemed obscene, and material that is harmful to minors.

The Manchester Public School's will promote the safety and security of users of the computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communication.

The Manchester Public Schools will through its K-12 Technology Literacy Skills Curriculum, educate students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and cyber-bullying awareness and response.

All network users are prohibited from:

1. accessing Internet sites or online materials that are blocked by the technology protection measure;
2. hacking, unauthorized access, and engaging in any unlawful online activity; and
3. the unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled for adults or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

### **Definitions**

- A. Minor: The term "minor" means any individual who has not attained the age of 17 years.
- B. Obscene: The term "obscene" is defined as material – (1) the dominant theme of which, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest; (2) which is patently offensive because it affronts contemporary community standards relating to the description or representation of sadomasochistic abuse or sexual conduct; and (3) lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.
- C. Child pornography: The term "child pornography" is a visual depiction, including any photograph, film, video, picture, or computer or computer-generated image or picture, whether made or produced by electronic, mechanical, or other means, of sexually explicit conduct, where the production of such visual depiction involves the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct; such visual depiction is a digital image, computer image, or computer-generated image that is, or is indistinguishable from, that of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct; or such visual depiction has been

created, adapted, or modified to appear that an identifiable minor is engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

- D. Harmful to minors: The term “harmful to minors” means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that—(1) taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion; (2) 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, (3) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.
  
- E. Technology protection measure: The term “technology protection measure” means a specific technology that blocks or filters Internet access to the material that is obscene, contains child pornography and/or is harmful to minors.

Legal References:

Children’s Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)]  
Neighborhood Children’s Internet Protection Act (47 U.S.C. § 254(l)(2))  
Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act (Pub. L. 110-385 and 47 CFR 54.520(c)(1&2)(i))

Board of Education Policy #5131.1 Bullying  
Board of Education Policy #5131.81 Electronic Communication Devices  
Board of Education Policy #6141.321 Acceptable Use of Technology

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# Children's Internet Protection Act

## Background

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) is a federal law enacted by Congress to address concerns about access to offensive content over the Internet on school and library computers. CIPA imposes certain types of requirements on any school or library that receives funding for Internet access or internal connections from the E-rate program – a program that makes certain communications technology more affordable for eligible schools and libraries. In early 2001, the FCC issued rules implementing CIPA.

## What CIPA Requires

- Schools and libraries subject to CIPA may not receive the discounts offered by the E-rate program unless they certify that they have an Internet safety policy that includes technology protection measures. The protection measures must block or filter Internet access to pictures that are: (a) obscene; (b) child pornography; or (c) harmful to minors (for computers that are accessed by minors). Before adopting this Internet safety policy, schools and libraries must provide reasonable notice and hold at least one public hearing or meeting to address the proposal.
- Schools subject to CIPA are required to adopt and enforce a policy to monitor online activities of minors.
- Schools and libraries subject to CIPA are required to adopt and implement an Internet safety policy addressing: (a) access to minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet; (b) the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communications; (c) unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking," and other unlawful activities by minors online; (d) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors; and (e) measures restricting minors' access to materials harmful to them.

Schools and libraries are required to certify that they have their safety policies and technology in place before receiving E-rate funding.

- CIPA does not affect E-rate funding for schools and libraries receiving discounts only for telecommunications, such as telephone service.
- An authorized person may disable the blocking or filtering measure during use by an adult to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.
- CIPA does not require the tracking of Internet use by minors or adults.

You can find out more about CIPA or apply for E-rate funding by contacting the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Schools and Libraries Division (SLD). SLD also operates a client service bureau to answer questions at 1-888-203-8100 or via email through the SLD website.