

Internet Content Filtering Policy

ADM Community School District Technology Committee

Purpose and Action

In order to safeguard our students, staff, and network resources from potentially harmful internet content, as well as to meet the requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), the ADM Community School District will employ technology-based solutions to filter all internet access originating from the district's network, including both secured and unsecured networks.

This policy delineates disallowed content, establishes a mechanism to address new content filtering questions and appeals, and establishes responsibility for enforcement.

Filtered Content

CIPA-mandated content filters will be enforced, including a restriction on **(1)** pornographic content, **(2)** other obscene content (such as extreme violence), and **(3)** other websites that are potentially harmful to children (such as the "Personals" portion of Craigslist). Further, any **(4)** content that carries a significant threat to network security or performance may be filtered. Decisions to filter content that does not correspond to one of these four categories will be made by the district's technology committee.

List Maintenance

Filtered content lists are maintained within the district's internet content filtering device. Most filtered content is filtered automatically, based upon frequently-updated category definitions provided by the district's content filter vendor. Blocked categories include:

abused drugs, pornography, botnets, confirmed spam sources, dating, keyloggers and monitoring, malware sites, nudity, online gambling, open http proxies, pay to surf, peer to peer, phishing and other frauds, proxy avoidance and anonymizers, spam urls, spyware and adware, and unconfirmed spam sources

Content that matches the filtered categories but that is not caught by our automatic filter will be added to an explicit block list at the discretion of the director of technology.

Requests for Blocks / Opened Sites and Services

From time to time, there may be a reason to filter internet content that does not match one of the categories listed above, or there may be a reason to allow a site that is blocked due to inclusion in category 4.

Technology Director Action

Requests to block or unblock sites/services should be submitted to the technology department. If the director of technology determines that blocking or unblocking the resource matches district policy and is non-controversial, he/she may approve and act upon the request immediately. Further, if the request clearly cannot be approved based upon district policy, the director of technology may immediately deny the request, at which point the rationale will be provided along with information about appealing the request to the district technology committee.

Technology Committee Action

The technology committee will review requests to block or allow internet resources in any of the following cases:

- The technology director determines that the request warrants consideration, but that approving the request has the potential to violate the general policy outlined above
 - Example: a request is lodged to allow access to www.backwoodssurvival.com, which is argued to be relevant to social science curriculum. Deep within the site, however, are examples of extreme violence.
- A request is made to block an internet resource that does not match one of the four categories, where justification is provided on other grounds
 - Example: a teacher requests that access to Twitter be blocked, as it is disrupting his/her classroom
- A decision made by the director of technology has been appealed to the technology committee.

In reviewing the requests, the technology committee may consider any and all factors, including – but not limited to – district policy, cyberbullying, curricular needs, convenience, student cell phone access, and other costs and benefits. A decision may be rendered by a vote of the technology committee, or the committee may choose to delegate the decision to the director of technology.

Enforcement

All internet content filtering policies and decisions are enforced from a technological standpoint by the ADM Community School District technology department.

This is in accordance with school board policy 605.6, “Acceptable Use Policy”.

Non-Conflict Statement

This policy should not be read as replacing or conflicting with behavior standards established at the district level, or within individual schools and classrooms.