

Internet Filter Policy Information for Students

1 Description

Although the internet clearly provides a wide variety of educationally sound resources, some material may not be of educational value within the context of the school setting. Santa Rosa educators will make every effort to direct students to educationally relevant material. The valuable information and interaction available on the internet far outweigh the possibility of users gaining access to material that is not consistent with the educational goals of our district, because the district provides a proven internet filter to reduce the possibility of students accessing inappropriate information via the internet.

Use of proxy avoidance sites (sites that allow the user to bypass the district internet filter) and accessing those sites that the district has deemed inappropriate and has blocked (see section **5 Category Status**), violates the Acceptable Use Policy Agreement for Students and could result in loss of internet access and/or other disciplinary actions listed in section **2 Consequences**. Every effort will be made to ensure student safety. As with any disciplinary action, abuse/misuse shall be dealt with in a professional manner and in accordance with the Santa Rosa County Code of Student Conduct.

The District Technology Committee, which meets approximately four times a year, will continually review, update, and revise this policy as necessary to address changing instructional needs.

2 Consequences

Disciplinary action may include up to and including suspension/expulsion:

- a. 1st offense:
 - i. Administrative designee(s) will be notified by Content Filter administrator
 - ii. Administrative designee notifies teacher and parents
 - iii. Conference with principal, teacher, student, and possibly parents
 - iv. Principal documents incident
- b. 2nd offense:
 - i. Principal, teachers, and parents notified
 - ii. Student's privileges are restricted to instructor-directed sites and district web applications
 - iii. Disciplinary action up to and including suspension
- c. 3rd offense:
 - i. Notification of all parties
 - ii. Disciplinary action up to and including suspension/expulsion

3 Consequences Involving Illegal Or Threatening Sites

- a. In addition to disciplinary action in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct, attempts to access illegal or threatening sites may result in legal action
- b. The administrator will take necessary action up to and including notification of the school resource officer.

4 Rationale

In an effort to ensure the safety of our students and to maintain the integrity of the network, categories of sites were blocked if they met one or more of several criteria:

- a. Are illegal in nature and/or promote illegal activities,
- b. Provide a means to bypass the internet firewall,
- c. Represent and/or promote hate, violence, or racism,
- d. Provide access to file types that negatively impact the district network (e.g., music and video files are large and, in sufficient number, greatly reduce overall network bandwidth) or pose a security risk,
- e. Provide an unacceptable risk to student well-being,
- f. Reduce productivity (e.g., non-educational game sites can reduce student time on task).

5 Category Status

a. Blocked Categories

While these categories are blocked, a request can be made by a teacher to open a site within one of these categories, if the site is researched-based, meets Sunshine State Standards, and is age- and instructionally-appropriate. See previous section **4 Rationale** for a description of letter codes.

Category	Rationale	Category	Rationale
Abortion	a, e	Pay-to-Surf	d
Abused drugs	a, e	Peer-to-Peer file sharing	d
Adult content	a, e	Personal network storage and backup	d
Advertisements	f	Personal web sites	d, e, f
Alcohol and tobacco	a, e	Personals and dating	e, f
Alternative journals	e	Phishing and other frauds	a, d
Business and economy	e, f	Prescribed medications	e
Computer security	d	Pro-Choice	e
Entertainment	f	Pro-Life	e
Freeware and software downloads	d	Proxy avoidance	b
Gambling	a, e	Racism and hate	c
Games	f	Religious advocacy	e
Gay or lesbian or bisexual interest	e	Restaurants and dining	f
Hacking	a, d	Sex (not sex education)	a, e
Illegal or questionable	a, d, e	Sport hunting and gun clubs	e, f
Instant messaging	e, f	Society and lifestyles	e
Internet auctions	f	Streaming media	d
Internet radio and TV	d, f	Sex education	e
Internet telephony	d, f	Shopping	e, f
Keyloggers	d	Violence	a, c, e
Lingerie and swimsuit	e, f	Weapons	a, c, e
Malicious web sites	a, d	URL translation sites	b
Marijuana	a, e	Spyware	d
Message boards and clubs	f	Web hosting	d, e, f
Militancy and extremist	a, c, e	Supplements and unregulated compounds	e
MP3	d	Tasteless	e, f
Nudity	a, e	Web chat	e, f
Occult	e	Web-based email	e, f

b. Open Categories

Categories are open if the underlying sites present educational opportunities for students and address Sunshine State Standards. Sites in these categories deemed inappropriate for student use are blocked.

- Advocacy groups
- Cultural institutions
- Educational institutions
- Educational materials
- Financial data and services
- Government
- Health
- Hobbies
- Information Technology
- Job search
- Military
- News and media
- Online brokerage and trading
- Political organizations
- Professional and worker organizations
- Real estate
- Reference materials
- Search engines and portals
- Service and philanthropic organizations
- Social and affiliation organizations
- Special events
- Sports
- Travel
- Vehicles