

Instruction

Internet Acceptable Use: Filtering

Criteria for Filtering of Objectionable Sites

Anything that falls under at least one of the categories below shall be blocked. This list may be updated/modified as required.

Nudity/Pornography

- Prevailing Connecticut standards for nudity (e.g., genitalia, female breasts)
- Provocative semi-nudity (e.g. lingerie models)
- Sites which contain pornography or links to pornographic sites
- **Exceptions:** Classical nudity (e.g., Michelangelo), swimsuit models

Sexuality

- Sites which contain material of a mature level (elementary/middle school levels)
- Images or descriptions of sexual aids
- Descriptions of sexual acts or techniques
- Sites which contain inappropriate personal ads

Violence

- Sites which promote violence
- Images or a description of graphically violent acts (rape, dismemberment, torture, etc.)
- Graphic autopsy or crime-scene images

Crime

- Information on performing criminal acts (e.g., drug or bomb making, computer "hacking")
- Illegal file archives (e.g., software piracy)

Drug Use

- Sites which promote the use of illegal drugs
- Material advocating the use of illegal drugs (e.g., marijuana, LSD) or abuse of any drug (e.g., drinking-game rules)
- **Exceptions:** Material with valid educational use (e.g., drug-use statistics)

Instruction

Internet Acceptable Use: Filtering

Criteria for Filtering of Objectionable Sites (continued)

Tastelessness

- Images or descriptions of excretory acts (e.g., vomiting, urinating)
- Graphic medical images outside of a medical context
- **Exception:** Graphic medical images within a medical context

Language/Profanity

- Passages/Words too coarse to be softened by the word filter
- Profanity within images/sounds/multimedia files
- Adult humor (e.g., sexually or racially tinged)

NOTE: The focus is on American English, but profanity in other languages or dialects is blocked if brought to our attention.

Discrimination/Intolerance

- Material advocating discrimination (e.g., racial or religious intolerance)
- Sites which promote intolerance, hate, or discrimination

Interactive Mail/Chat

- Sites which contain or allow inappropriate e-mail correspondence
- Sites which contain or allow inappropriate chat areas

Inappropriate Banner Acts

- Advertisements containing inappropriate images

Gambling

- Sites which allow or promote online gambling

Weapons

- Sites which promote illegal weapons
- Sites which promote the use of illegal weapons

Instruction

Internet Acceptable use: Filtering

Criteria for Filtering of objectionable sites (continued)

Other Inappropriate Material

- Body modification: tattooing, branding, cutting, etc.

Judgment Calls

- Whether a page is likely to have more questionable material in the future (e.g., sites under construction whose names indicate questionable material)

Procedures for suggesting site be blocked or unblocked

If district staff members observe a site, which they believe to contain inappropriate material according to the criteria provided here, they may request that the site (URL) be blocked. Education technology staff will review the site for inappropriateness. If the site meets the criteria for filtering, steps will be taken to block the site.

A form letter which addresses the issue of filtering

_____ **Public Schools**
_____, **Connecticut**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The _____ Public Schools is fortunate to have a connection to the Internet to supplement the other resources already available to staff and students. Through the Internet, your child will have the entire world at his or her fingertips and be able to explore it.

This wonderful resource brings with it added responsibility. As Internet users, we must be aware of the many issues that surround the Internet. There are many valuable resources available on the Internet that may not be found elsewhere. At the same time there are many sites that can be considered inappropriate for students and serve no educational value. It is the responsibility of all users, staff and students alike, to ensure that, at all times while in a _____ Public School, the Internet is being used only for educational purposes. Student use of the Internet will be under the supervision of _____ Public School staff.

The attached "Network/Internet Acceptable Use Policy Agreement" should be read carefully and understood by all Internet users. As parents/guardians, you should review it in detail with your children before they begin using the Internet in their classroom. The "Network/Internet Acceptable Use Policy Agreement" strives to ensure the safety of all users. A filtering system designed to prevent access to certain unacceptable sites is being installed to help eliminate this problem. However, it is important to understand that no solution is perfect and we cannot guarantee that students will only have access to educational materials.

It is important that you and your children understand that any violation of the "Network/Internet Acceptable Use Policy Agreement" will result in the loss of Internet privileges or other disciplinary action. We ask that you work with your children in reinforcing the behaviors associated with the "Network/Internet Acceptable Use Policy Agreement."

Thank you for your support of this important new opportunity for _____ Public School students.

Sincerely,

Principal

EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NETWORK/INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY AGREEMENT

Network computer and Internet access is now available to students, teachers and staff in the Easton Public Schools. The Board of Education is pleased to bring this access to Easton Public Schools and believes that this technology offers vast, diverse and unique resources to both students and teachers. Our goal in providing this service to teachers and students is to promote educational excellence in schools by facilitating resource sharing, innovation and communication.

I have read and fully understand the Easton Public Schools Network/Internet Acceptable Use Policy Agreement for student access to the computer network, Internet and e-mail. I will abide by the policy in full and understand that any violation of the regulations above is unethical and may create potential civil or criminal liability for me. Should I commit any violation of the policy, I recognize and accept that the Easton Public Schools may revoke my access privilege and disciplinary and/or appropriate legal action may be taken against me. I understand that, should the content of the policy be changed in any way, Easton Public Schools may require an additional signature from me to indicate that I am aware of and understand any such changes.

Student Name (please print) _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

School _____

**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR INTERNET AND OTHER
COMPUTER NETWORK ACCESS**

The purpose of providing Internet and other computer network access in this district is to promote the exchange of information and ideas with the global community. The following represents a guide to the acceptable use of the technology provided by this district. All network use must be consistent with the policies and goals of this school district. Inappropriate use of district technology will result in the loss of technology use, disciplinary action, and/or referral to legal authorities.

All Internet and other computer network users will be expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Be polite. Messages should not be abusive to others.
2. Take pride in communications. Check spelling and grammar.
3. Use appropriate language. Do not swear or use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language, symbols, or pictures.
4. Protect password confidentiality. Passwords are not to be shared with others. Using another user's account or password or allowing such access by another may be permitted only with the approval of the supervising teacher or system administrator.
5. Do not reveal your personal address or telephone number or those of other persons. No student information protected by FERPA should be electronically transmitted or otherwise disseminated through the network.
6. Do not disguise the point of origin or transmission of electronic mail.
7. Do not send messages that contain false, malicious, or misleading information which may be injurious to a person or a person's property.
8. Illegal activities are strictly prohibited.
9. The district technology is not to be used for playing multi-user or other network intensive games, commercial ventures, Internet relay chat lines, or downloading excessively large files.
10. No charges for services, products, or information are to be incurred without appropriate permission.

11. Do not use the network in such a way that you would disrupt the use of the network by other users.
12. Users shall respect the privacy of others and not read the mail or files of others without their permission. Copyright and licensing laws will not be intentionally violated.
13. Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy hardware, data of another user, Internet, or any other agencies or other networks which may be accessed. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.
14. Report security problems to the Director of Learning Resources and Technology or network administrator.
15. Violators of this policy shall hold the district, including its employees and agents, harmless against any and all causes of action, damages, or other liability resulting from the willful or negligent violation of this policy.