

**Barrington Public Schools  
School Internet Filtering Policy  
Adopted Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 16-21.61-1**

**1. Definitions**

In accordance with the United States Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), the District is required to have in place a filtering device on all computers with Internet access. The filter should protect minors from access to visual depictions that are obscene, constitute child pornography, or that are harmful to minors as defined in CIPA.

**2. Internet Filter Work Group**

A. The Superintendent shall appoint an Internet Filter Work Group, which shall include members of the Instructional Technology staff, administrators, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Director of Technology, library media specialists, and educators. The Work Group shall propose the categories of content for filtering to the School Committee for its approval.

B. Principles of academic freedom shall be a factor in the categories selected to filter.

C. The Internet Filter Work Group shall prepare a document with the list of selected filter categories and a brief explanation of the educational or legal basis for the decision.

D. The Internet Filter Work Group shall review the filtered categories annually, with a subgroup reviewing monthly, and the Network Administrator will make requisite adjustments.

**3. Requests to Unblock Websites**

A. Websites may be unblocked in certain circumstances for the following criteria:

a. Educational Need – Valid and relevant educational resources are blocked by the filter.

b. Professional Need – Valid and relevant resources are blocked that are necessary for purchasing, research, etc.

B. A formal request from staff shall be made to the Network Administrator through the online ticketing system. The request submission will include:

- Date(s) the site is needed
- Website address to be unblocked
- Explanation of purpose for unblocking the site (refer to criteria above)
- Name and email of the requester
- Date of the request

C. If deemed appropriate, and if there is no threat to the network or resources, the site Network Administrator will unblock and provide access to relevant personnel and/or students within a week.

**4. Denied Requests**

If a request to unblock a website is denied, the Network Administrator will provide the specific reasons for the denial, as well as notification of the individual's right to appeal the decision to the Director of Technology and/or the Superintendent.

**5. Reporting**

- A. The Director of Technology will maintain a record of any requests made to unblock a website and subsequent decisions.
- B. The Director of Technology will submit annual reports to the School Committee regarding the request and denial data. The report shall be used to assess the efficacy of filtering software and to determine the need for modifications to the software.

First Read: 12/14/17

Second Read/Approved: 1/11/2018

Revised: