IV. Instruction
      B. Instructional Resources and Materials
          2. Computer Use and Access
              d. Internet Filtering Policy

1. Definitions

In accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), Narragansett School System 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 or constitute child pornography, or that are harmful to minors, as defined in CIPA below:

Harmful to minors, means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:
      A. taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
      B. 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
      C. taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

2. Technology Committee
      A. The superintendent shall appoint a Technology Committee, which shall include designated members including the Director of Technology, IT Staff, library staff, administrators, educators, parents and a school committee member. Deciding what categories of content to filter shall be made by the Technology Committee and approved by the school committee.
      B. Principles of academic freedom shall be considered in deciding what categories to filter.
      C. The Technology Committee shall prepare a document with the list of filtered categories that have been chosen and a brief explanation of the educational or legal basis for the decision to filter each category.
      D. The Technology committee shall annually review the filtered categories and make recommendations to the Director of Technology for any adjustments.

3. Requests to Unblock Website
      A. Websites may be unblocked in certain circumstances for anyone who meets the following criteria:
          1. Educational purposes – there is educational material being blocked by the filtering system. Where access to a specific site consistent with the purpose of education is blocked, the site shall be unblocked.
          2. Staff related purposes – a staff member needs a website unblocked related to their job (such as purchasing, law enforcement, bona fide research).
      B. Any person requesting to have a site unblocked should submit a formal request to the Director of Technology in a detailed email. The request submission will include:
- Date of the request
- Website address to be unblocked
- Explanation of purpose for unblocking the site (refer to criteria above)
- Name and title of the requester
- Email from a district email address

      C. If deemed appropriate to the criteria mentioned above and if there is no threat to the network or resources, the site will immediately be unblocked and access granted.

4. Denied Requests
      A. If a request to unblock a website is denied, the Director of Technology will provide the specific reasons as to why the request was denied as well as the individual's right to appeal the decision.
      B. Further appeals may be made in writing to the Superintendent requesting that the denial be overturned.

5. Reporting
      A. Narragansett School System will maintain a public record of any requests made to unblock a website and all copies of responses provided.
      B. Narragansett School System will submit annual reports to the school committee regarding the number of requests granted and denied to unblock a site. The results of the report shall be used to review the filtering categories in place and consider modifications to them or to the administrative procedures in place.
      C. The report shall also be used to determine whether improvements and modifications should be made to the filter itself or a different filtering software vendor should be used.

References: RIGL 16-21.61-1, Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)
(Attached are our filtered categories)

1st Reading: February 14, 2018
2nd Reading: April 11, 2018
Adopted:

Filtered Categories

- Adult Content (This category is filtered in accordance with CIPA)
- Dating & Personals (This category is filtered for child safety)
- Gambling (This category is filtered because the Technology Committee has deemed it unnecessary for educational purposes)
- Games (This category is filtered because the Technology Committee has deemed it unnecessary for educational purposes)
- Malware (This category is filtered because the Technology Committee has deemed it unnecessary for educational purposes and it is a threat to network security)
- Porn/Child (This category is filtered in accordance with CIPA)
- Porn/Nudity (This category is filtered in accordance with CIPA)
- Violence & Hate (This category is filtered because the Technology Committee has deemed it unnecessary for educational purposes)
- Web Proxies (This category is filtered because the Technology Committee has deemed it unnecessary for educational purposes and it is a threat to network security)
- Terrorism/Radicalization (This category is filtered because the Technology Committee has deemed it unnecessary for educational purposes)

Unfiltered Categories

- Ads
- Alcohol & Tobacco
- Art
- Auctions
- Audio & Video
- Business
- Dictionary
- Drugs
- Entertainment
- File Sharing
- Finance
- Food
- Forums
- Friendship
- Government
- Guns & Weapons
- Health
- Image/Video Search
- Jobs
- Mobile Phones
- News
- Organizations
- Parked Domains
- Political
- Private Websites
- Professional Services
- Real Estate
- Religion
- Search Engines
- Sex Ed
- Shopping
- Sports
- Streaming Radio/TV
- Swimsuit
- Technology
- Toolbars
- Transportation
- Travel
- Webmail