

East Valley School District No. 361

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Internet Content Filtering

Intent

It is the intent of this Administrative Directive to define a minimum set of operating procedures and requirements to ensure a safe learning environment enriched through Internet communications and collaboration. Furthermore, this Administrative Directive is intended to supplement those provisions of Board of Education Policy No. 2022P. The provisions of this Administrative Directive shall not be interpreted to supersede, nullify or otherwise amend the provisions and requirements of Policy No. 2022P.

Content Filtering

Definition: Information content can exist in many forms throughout the Internet and can be accessed through various methods and protocols. To the extent possible, methods, processes and/or procedures shall exist to filter out inappropriate material that does not enrich the learning environment or the professional workspace in a manner consistent with the mission, policies and administrative directives of the school district and the Board of Education. Specifically, filtering will, at a minimum, address inappropriate content available through the following access methods and protocols, and require compliance regardless of the software, tool or client used with these protocols:

- World-Wide Web (WWW)
- File Transfer Protocol (FTP)
- Trivial File Transfer Protocol (TFTP)
- Gopher
- Chat
- Electronic Mail (SMTP, POP and IMAP)
- NEWS (NNTP)
- Instant Messaging

Should there exist a protocol or access methods that cannot accommodate suitable filtering or blocking, then such protocol or access method shall not be made available as a general service to EVSD network users. Inappropriate content shall be further defined to include, but not be limited to, the following content categories unless specifically required as part of the instructional or research processes:

- Free Pages (including unmanaged websites and free electronic mail sites)
- Sexually explicit or oriented content (including but not limited to pornography, adults only, lingerie, swimsuit, nudity and sex)
- Games
- Profanity
- Chat
- Violence
- Tasteless / Gross
- Gambling
- Obscenity
- Drugs

- Illegal activities
- Alcohol
- School Cheating Info
- Weapons
- Personals and personal Information

Exceptions: While it is the intent of this policy and administrative directive to filter only inappropriate content as defined in these categories, it is recognized that some content that is appropriate and necessary for the instructional and research processes may be associated with these categories as well. Subsequently, such appropriate content may become filtered or blocked. So as not to impede or otherwise interfere with these processes, an access override procedure shall exist.

Filtering Override (Bypass): To the extent that override (or bypass) methods exist, only the EVSD Electronic Information System Administrators may authorize and implement requested override access to filtered content. In doing so, the individual requesting the override access shall assume all responsibility and liability for use and access to such content through this access in a manner that is consistent with the missions, policies and administrative directives of the district and the Board of Education. Authorization of requested access shall in no way be construed, or used, as a means of overriding or bypassing this policy and/or administrative directive.

The following procedure shall be available only to employees of East Valley School District #361 who have signed the East Valley School District Network/Internet Use Policy. This procedure is intended to provide a means to request override access to appropriate content that has otherwise been classified within a filtered content category:

1. A request for override access must be submitted in writing via electronic mail by the appropriate supervisor or site administrator to the EVSD Director of Technology. This request shall include the following information:
 - a. Requestor name
 - b. Requestor site
 - c. Supervisor name
 - d. Supervisor site (if different from requestor's site)
 - e. Location (or URL) of desired content
 - f. Reason for request
 - g. Duration of requested override
 - h. Scope of usage (individual, group, class or school wide)
2. Upon receipt and within five (5) working days, a decision will be sent to the requestor from Director of Technology via electronic mail with any necessary access information. This information will also be copied to the approving supervisor and the site administrator. The decision of the Director of Technology is final. In some instances, this access information will include a username and/or password. This authentication information shall exist for use only by the requesting individual.

Unauthorized Access: Any attempt to bypass, circumvent, or render inactive or ineffective any access controls or filtering mechanisms will result in cancellation of privileges and subject the member to further disciplinary action according to school and District policies.