




Connecting Indiana to the world

Filtering Policy

Access to web sites that have been identified as providing inappropriate content will be blocked. This determination is based upon various content categories by the Indianapolis Public Schools. If you have a question regarding the filtering policy, please see your local technology contact.

Blocked Categories

- **Adult/Mature Content:** Sites that contain material of adult nature that does not necessarily contain excessive violence, sexual content, or nudity. These sites include very profane or vulgar content and sites that are not appropriate for children.
- **Alcohol:** Sites that offer for sale, promote, glorify, review or in any way advocate the use or creation of alcoholic beverages, including but not limited to beer, wine, and hard liquors. It does not include sites that sell alcohol as a subset of other products such as restaurants or grocery stores.
- **Alternative Sexuality/Lifestyles:** Sites that provide information, promote, or cater to alternative sexual expressions in their myriad forms. Includes but is not limited to the full range of non-traditional sexual practices, interests, orientations or fetishes. This category does not include sites that are sexually gratuitous in nature which would typically fall under the Pornography category, nor does it include lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender or any sites which speak to one's sexual identity.
- ➔ **Alternative Spirituality/Belief:** Sites that promote and provide information on religions such as Wicca, Witchcraft or Satanism. Occult practices, atheistic views, voodoo rituals or any other form of mysticism are represented here. Includes sites that endorse or offer methods, means of instruction, or other resources to affect or influence real events through the use of spells, incantations, curses and magic powers. This category includes sites which discuss or deal with paranormal or unexplained events.
- **Auctions:** Sites that support the offering and purchasing of goods between individuals. Does not include classified advertisements.
- **Chat/Instant Messaging:** Sites that provide chat or instant messaging capabilities or client downloads.
- **Email:** Sites offering web-based email services, such as online email reading, e-cards, and mailing list services.
- **Extreme:** Sites that are extreme in nature and are not suitable for general consumption. Includes sites that revel and glorify in gore, human or animal suffering, scatological or other aberrant behaviors, perversities or debaucheries. It includes visual or written depictions deemed to be of unusually horrific nature. These are salacious sites bereft of historical context, educational value or artistic merit created solely to debase, dehumanize or shock. Examples would include necrophilia, cannibalism, scat and amputee fetish sites.
- **Gambling:** Sites where a user can place a bet or participate in a betting pool, participate in a lottery, or receive information, assistance, recommendations, or training in such activities. Does not include sites that sell gambling-related products/machines or sites for offline casinos and hotels, unless they meet one of the above requirements.
- **Games:** Sites that provide information and support game playing or downloading, video games, computer games, electronic games, tips, and advice on games or how to obtain cheat codes. Includes magazines dedicated to video games and sites that support or host online sweepstakes and giveaways.

- **Hacking:** Sites that distribute, promote, or provide hacking tools and/or information which may help gain unauthorized access to computer systems and/or computerized communication systems. Hacking encompasses instructions on illegal or questionable tactics, such as creating viruses, distributing cracked or pirated software, or distributing other protected intellectual property.
- **Illegal Drugs:** Sites that promote, offer, sell, supply, encourage or otherwise advocate the illegal use, cultivation, manufacture, or distribution of drugs, pharmaceuticals, intoxicating plants or chemicals and their related paraphernalia.
- **Illegal/Questionable:** Sites that advocate or give advice on performing illegal acts such as service theft, evading law enforcement, fraud, burglary techniques and plagiarism. Also includes sites that provide or sell questionable educational materials, such as term papers.
- **Intimate Apparel/Swimsuit:** Sites that contain images or offer the sale of swimsuits or intimate apparel or other types of suggestive clothing. Does not include sites selling undergarments as a subsection of other products offered.
- **LGBT:** Sites that provide information regarding, support, promote, or cater to one's sexual orientation or gender identity including but not limited to lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgender sites.
- **Nudity:** Sites containing nude or seminude depictions of the human body. These depictions are not necessarily sexual in intent or effect, but may include sites containing nude paintings or photo galleries of artistic nature. This category also includes nudist or naturist sites that contain pictures of nude individuals.
- **Peer-to-Peer (P2P):** Sites that distribute software to facilitate the direct exchange of files between users, including software that enables file search and sharing across a network without dependence on a central server.
- **Personals/Dating:** Sites that promote interpersonal relationships.
- **Phishing:** Sites that are designed to appear as a legitimate bank or retailer with the intent to fraudulently capture sensitive data (i.e. credit card numbers, pin numbers).
- **Pornography:** Sites that contain sexually explicit material for the purpose of arousing a sexual or prurient interest.
- **Potentiall Unwanted Software:** Sites that distribute software that is not malicious but may be unwanted within an organization such as intrusive adware and hoaxes.
- **Proxy Avoidance:** Sites that provide information on how to bypass proxy server/appliance features or gain access to URLs in any way that bypasses the proxy server/appliance. This category includes any service which attempts to allow a person to bypass the filtering system, such as anonymous surfing services.
- **Social Networking:** Sites that enable people to connect with others to form an online community. Typically members describe themselves in personal web page profiles and form interactive networks, linking them with other members based on common interests or acquaintances. Instant messaging, file sharing and web logs (blogs) are common features of Social Networking sites. Note: These sites may contain offensive material in the community-created content. Sites in this category are also referred to as "virtual communities" or "online communities". This category does not include more narrowly focused sites, like those that specifically match descriptions for Personals/Dating sites or Business sites.
- **Spyware Effects/Privacy Concerns:** Sites to which spyware (as defined in the Spyware/Malware Sources category) reports its findings or from which it alone downloads advertisements. Also includes sites that contain serious privacy issues, such as "phone home" sites to which software can connect and send user info; sites that make extensive use of tracking cookies without a posted privacy statement; and sites to which browser hijackers redirect users. Usually does not include sites that can be marked as Spyware/Malware. Note: Sites rated as spyware effects typically have a second category assigned with them.
- **Spyware/Malware Sources:** Sites which distribute spyware and other malware. Spyware is defined as software which takes control of your computer, modifies computer settings, collects or reports personal information, or misrepresents itself by tricking users to install, download, or enter personal information. This includes drive-by downloads; browser hijackers; dialers; intrusive advertising; any program which modifies your homepage, bookmarks, or security settings; and keyloggers. It also includes any software which bundles spyware (as defined above) as part of its offering. Information collected or reported is "personal" if it contains uniquely identifying data, such as email addresses, name, social security number, IP address, etc. A site is not classified as spyware

if the user is reasonably notified that the software will perform these actions (ie, it alerts that it will send personal information, be installed, or that it will log keystrokes). Note: Sites rated as spyware should have a second category assigned with them.

- **Tobacco:** Sites that offer for sale, promote, glorify, review or in any way advocate the use or creation of tobacco or tobacco related products including but not limited to cigarettes, pipes, cigars and chewing tobacco. It does not include sites that sell tobacco as a subset of other products such as grocery stores.
- **Violence/Hate/Racism:** Sites that depict extreme physical harm to people or property, or that advocate or provide instructions on how to cause such harm. Also includes sites that advocate, depict hostility or aggression toward, or denigrate an individual or group on the basis of race, religion, gender, nationality, ethnic origin, or other involuntary characteristics.
- **Weapons:** Sites that sell, review, or describe weapons such as guns, knives or martial arts devices, or provide information on their use, accessories, or other modifications. Does not include sites providing information on BB guns, paintball guns, black powder rifles, target shooting, or bows and arrows, unless the site also meets one of the above requirements. Also does not include sites that promote collecting weapons, or groups that either support or oppose weapons use.
- **Web Hosting:** Sites of organizations which provide top-level domain pages, as well as web communities or hosting services.

Exception Categories

- **Education:** Sites that offer educational information, distance learning, or trade school information or programs. Also includes sites that are sponsored by schools, educational facilities, faculty, or alumni groups.
- **For Kids:** Sites designed specifically for children. This category is typically used in conjunction with other categories.
- **Health:** Sites that provide advice and information on general health such as fitness and well-being, personal health or medical services, drugs, alternative and complimentary therapies, medical information about ailments, dentistry, optometry, general psychiatry, self-help, and support organizations dedicated to a disease or condition.
- **Reference:** Sites containing personal, professional, or educational reference, including online dictionaries, maps, census, almanacs, library catalogues, genealogy-related sites and scientific information.

Special Categories



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