

**SUBJECT: THE CHILDREN'S INTERNET PROTECTION ACT: INTERNET CONTENT FILTERING/SAFETY POLICY**

In compliance with The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and Regulations of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES has adopted and will enforce this Internet safety policy that ensures the use of technology protection measures (i.e., filtering or blocking of access to certain material on the Internet) on all BOCES computers with Internet access. Such technology protection measures apply to Internet access by both adults and minors with regard to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or, with respect to the use of computers by minors, considered harmful to such students. Further, appropriate monitoring of online activities of minors, as determined by the building/program supervisor, will also be enforced to ensure the safety of students when accessing the Internet.

Further, the BOCES' decision to utilize technology protection measures and other safety procedures for staff and students when accessing the Internet fosters the educational mission of the schools including the selection of appropriate teaching/instructional materials and activities to enhance the schools' programs; and to help ensure the safety of personnel and students while online.

However, no filtering technology can guarantee that staff and students will be prevented from accessing all inappropriate locations. Proper safety procedures, as deemed appropriate by the applicable administrator/program supervisor, will be provided to ensure compliance with the CIPA.

In addition to the use of technology protection measures, the monitoring of online activities and access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and World Wide Web may include, but shall not be limited to, the following guidelines:

- a) Ensuring the presence of a teacher and/or other appropriate BOCES employee when students are accessing the Internet including, but not limited to, the supervision of minors when using electronic mail, instant messaging, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications. As determined by the appropriate building administrator, the use of e-mail and chat rooms may be blocked as deemed necessary to ensure the safety of such students;
- b) Monitoring logs of access in order to keep track of the web sites visited by students as a measure to restrict access to materials harmful to minors.
- c) The dissemination of the BOCES' Acceptable Use Policy and accompanying Regulations to parents and students in order to provide notice of the school's requirements, expectations, and student's obligations when accessing the Internet. Parental and/or student consent, as may be applicable, shall be required prior to authorization for student use of BOCES computers.

(Continued)

**SUBJECT: THE CHILDREN'S INTERNET PROTECTION ACT: INTERNET CONTENT FILTERING/SAFETY POLICY (Cont'd.)**

- d) In compliance with this Internet Safety Policy as well as the BOCES' Acceptable Use Policy, unauthorized access (including so-called "hacking") and other unlawful activities by minors are prohibited by the BOCES; and student violations of such policies may result in disciplinary action;
- e) Appropriate supervision and notification to minors regarding the prohibition as to unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information regarding such students; and

The determination of what is "inappropriate" for minors shall be determined by the BOCES and/or designated school official(s). It is acknowledged that the determination of such "inappropriate" material may vary depending upon the circumstances of the situation and the age of the students involved in online research.

The terms "minor," "child pornography," "harmful to minors," "obscene," "technology protection measure," "sexual act," and "sexual contact" will be as defined in accordance with CIPA and other applicable laws/regulations as may be appropriate and implemented pursuant to BOCES' educational mission.

*Under certain specified circumstances, the blocking or filtering technology measure(s) may be disabled for adults engaged in bona fide research or other lawful purposes. The power to disable can only be exercised by an administrator, supervisor, or other person authorized by the BOCES.*

The St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES shall provide certification, pursuant to the requirements of CIPA, to document BOCES' adoption and enforcement of its Internet Safety Policy, including the operation and enforcement of technology protection measures (i.e., blocking/filtering of access to certain material on the Internet) for all BOCES computers with Internet access.

## **Internet Safety Instruction**

In accordance with New York State Education Law, the St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES shall provide, to students in grades K through 12, instruction designed to promote the proper and safe use of the Internet. The Commissioner shall provide technical assistance in the development of curricula for such course of study which shall be age appropriate and developed according to the needs and abilities of students at successive grade levels in order to provide awareness, skills, information and support to aid in the safe usage of the Internet.

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**Notification/Authorization**

The District has provided reasonable public notice and has held at least one public hearing or meeting to address the proposed Internet Content Filtering/Safety Policy prior to Board adoption. Furthermore, appropriate actions will be taken to ensure the ready availability to the public of the BOCES' Internet Content Filtering/Safety Policy, as well as any other BOCES policies relating to the use of technology.

\*Option A: "Affirmative Consent" (Opt-in) Student use of the District's computer system (DCS) is conditioned upon written agreement by all students and their parents/guardians that student use of the DCS will conform to the requirements of this policy and any regulations adopted to ensure acceptable use of the DCS. All such agreements shall be kept on file in the District Office.

47 United States Code (U.S.C.)  
Section 254(h) and (l) 47  
Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Part 54

Revised: 5/12/11  
Adopted: 7/10/02