

Evergreen School District

Internet Filtering and Parent/Student Responsibilities

Filtering at Evergreen Public Schools:

The Evergreen School District employs an Internet filtering service to block specific types of content (sites with adult oriented materials, violence, criminal skills, etc) from being accessed by staff or students. This filtering system is in place both for the protection of our students and compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) [1]. Updates to our filter are received on a daily basis from the vendor, in addition to customized additions at the request of staff members. The product we use, the Websense Enterprise server [2], is widely recognized as an industry leading filtering solution.

Even though a filtering solution is in place, there is still a limited risk of encountering inappropriate materials. With over seven million new pages added to the Internet each day [3], no Internet filtering solution on the market can be 100% effective. The filter will protect students from most content encountered in a search, but will not necessarily protect a student with an intent to find a particular type of blocked materials. To that end, an Internet filter is only one part of a comprehensive approach to Internet security. Staff supervision, network use policies, student data audits, and other network security technologies are all part of a comprehensive network security system.

Parent and Student Responsibilities:

Internet use at Evergreen School District is based on an opt-out policy. If a parent **does not** want their student to have access to the Internet for these or other reasons, they are required to complete an opt-out form and return it to their child's school office. Upon receipt of this form, the students' access to networked computer services at Evergreen Public Schools will be removed. Their access will remain in this state until authorization to enable the account is received from the parent. The opt-out agreement is available from the District web site under the "Parents & Students" section [4].

Students at Evergreen Public Schools are also required to comply with the Internet Use Agreement if they choose to use the computer network while at school. As part of this agreement, they are required to access only educationally relevant content, and also to inform a teacher or staff member if they encounter information or messages they deem dangerous or inappropriate on the web [5]. In this case, inappropriate is defined as not educationally relevant or material which should be filtered. Upon receipt of this information from the student, Evergreen staff will take appropriate action to evaluate and, if appropriate, block the material.

Questions:

We hope this information provides answers to some of your questions about filtering and network use at the Evergreen Public Schools. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please call the Community Relations Department at (360) 604-4088.

Citations:

1. Children's Internet Protection Act [CIPA]
United States Congress. Children's Internet Protection Act. By the 106th Congress, 1st Session. 19. January 1999. 1. March 2006 <<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c106:S.97.IS:>>
2. Websense
Websense Home Page. 1. March 2006. <<http://www.websense.com/global/en> >
Ronnie Manning, review of *Windows IT Pro: Readers' Choice Awards 2005*.
1. September 2005. 1. March 2006
<<http://www.websense.com/global/en/PressRoom/PressReleases/PressReleaseDetail/?Release=0509011001>>
3. Evergreen Public Schools
"Opt Out Agreement." PDF. Evergreen School District. August 2005. 1. March 2006
< <http://www.evergreenps.org/AboutUs/Services/Technology/Documents/IUAOptOut-Aug2005.pdf> >
4. Evergreen Public Schools
"Internet Use Agreement (Policy)." PDF. Evergreen School District. 15. April 2005. 1. March 2006
<<http://www.evergreenps.org/AboutUs/Services/Technology/Documents/UserTechnologyNetworkInternetAgreement.pdf>>