

Polk County Schools



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MEMO

Mar 29, 2023

Members of the Board,

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) was enacted by Congress in 2000 to address concerns about children's access to obscene or harmful content over the Internet. CIPA imposes certain requirements on schools or libraries that receive discounts for Internet access or internal connections through the E-rate program – a program that makes certain communications services and products more affordable for eligible schools and libraries. In early 2001, the FCC issued rules implementing CIPA and provided updates to those rules in 2011.

Schools and libraries subject to CIPA may not receive the discounts offered by the E-rate program unless they certify that they have an Internet safety policy that includes technology protection measures. The protection measures must block or filter Internet access to pictures that are: (a) obscene; (b) child pornography; or (c) harmful to minors (for computers that are accessed by minors).

Schools subject to CIPA have two additional certification requirements: 1) their Internet safety policies must include monitoring the online activities of minors; and 2) as required by the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act, they must provide for educating minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response.

Polk County Schools has maintained compliance with all CIPA requirements since its adoption in 2000. To satisfy compliance with the American Rescue Plan Act, a review of CIPA compliance measures currently in place with Polk County Schools will be reviewed in open session and with public notice at the regularly scheduled board meeting on April 3rd.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brandon Schweitzer".

Brandon Schweitzer
Director of Operations
Polk County Schools
(828) 894-1023 ext1216

References:

[Policy 3225 "Technology Responsible Use"](#)

[Policy 3226 "Internet Safety"](#)