

Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts

School Internet Filtering Policy

Adopted April 2022

Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-21.6-1.

In accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), (R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-21.6-1)

Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts maintains a technology plan and implements Securly filtering in association with OSHEAN Network Operations who are compliant with CIPA. This filtering device is on all computers with internet access.

These filters protect minors from access to visual depictions that are obscene or constitute child pornography, or that are harmful to minors, as defined in CIPA below:

Harmful to minors, means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that-

A) taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;

(B) depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and -

(C) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts has a Technology Committee, which includes designated members including IT staff, administrators, and educators. These members participate in deciding what categories of content are to be filtered and deemed safe. The recommendations and final decisions require approval by the Board of Trustees. Principles of academic freedom are considered in deciding what categories to filter. The Technology Committee will prepare a document with the list of filtered categories that have been chosen and a brief explanation of the educational or legal basis for the decision to filter each category.

The Technology Committee shall annually review the filtered categories and make recommendations to Christopher Mendez, Network Administrator for any adjustments.

Websites may be unblocked in certain circumstances for anyone who meets the following criteria:

1. Educational purposes – there is educational material being blocked by the filtering system. Where access to a specific site consistent with the purpose of education is blocked, the site shall be unblocked.

2. Staff related purposes – a staff member needs a website unblocked related to their job (such as purchasing, law enforcement, bona fide research).

Any person requesting to have a site unblocked should submit a formal request to Christopher Mendez, Network Administrator through the school's request process. The request submission will include:

- Date of the request
- Website address to be unblocked
- Explanation of purpose for unblocking the site (refer to criteria above)
- Name and title of the requester
- Electronic signature based on login credentials

If deemed appropriate to the criteria mentioned above and if there is no threat to the network or resources, the site will immediately be unblocked and access granted.

If a request to unblock a website is denied, Christopher Mendez, Network Administrator will provide the specific reasons as to why the request was denied as well as the individual's right to appeal the decision. Further appeals may be made in writing to Elizabeth Richards-Hegnauer, Head of School, requesting that the denial be overturned.

Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts will maintain a public record of any requests made to unblock a website and all copies of responses provided.

Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts will submit annual reports to the Board of Trustees regarding the number of requests granted and denied unblocking a site. The results of the report shall be used to review the filtering categories in place and consider modifications to them or to the administrative procedures in place. The report shall also be used to determine whether improvements and modifications should be made to the filter itself, or a different filtering software vendor should be used.