

# ***Public Hearing Agenda***

## ***Andover Public Library Internet Filtering Policy***

***355 Route 6 P.O. Box 117 Andover, CT 06232***

***Monday, September 13, 2021, at 6:30 PM***

***Andover Public Library Children's room***

- Call to order by Library Board of Directors, Cathy Desrosiers
- This is a Public Hearing to discuss the Andover Public Library's Internet Filtering Policy to be held on Monday, September 13, 2021, at the Andover Public Library located at 355 Route 6, Andover, CT 06232 at 6:30 pm.

The Internet Filtering Policy reads: In order to remain eligible for certain federal funding, it is the policy of the Andover Public Library to:

- (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications.
  - (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activities
  - (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors.
- Public Comment
  - Adjourn

Note from Amy Orlomoski:

Before our next Library Board meeting, we need to figure out how to do a "Public Hearing" in reference to our Internet Usage Policy and filtering software. This is the last part of three required to make the library "CIPA Compliant." We were going to have this public hearing originally on the evening of the April 2020 Board meeting, but that never happened due to COVID. We did create an Internet Usage Policy and our filtering software was turned "on" by CEN in March 2020, but we never had a hearing. Any ideas on how this should be handled? Does the hearing need to be warned via [RiverEast](#), etc.?

I'm attaching a copy of the Internet Use Policy, as well as the language from USAC (Universal Service Administrative Co.) re: CIPA (Children's Internet Protection Act). Here's the language relating to CIPA Compliance:

# Requirements

CIPA requirements include the following three items:

## **1. Internet Safety Policy**

Schools and libraries are required to adopt and enforce an internet safety policy that includes a technology protection measure that protects against access by adults and minors to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or – with respect to use of computers with internet access by minors – harmful to minors. "Minor" is defined as any individual who is under the age of 17.

This internet safety policy must address all of the following:

- Access by minors to inappropriate matter on the internet and World Wide Web;

- The safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications;
- Unauthorized access including “hacking” and other unlawful activities by minors online;
- Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors; and
- Measures designed to restrict minors’ access to materials harmful to minors.

**For schools, the policy must also include monitoring the online activities of minors.** As of July 1, 2012, as part of their CIPA certification, schools also certify that their internet safety policies have been updated to provide for educating minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, cyberbullying awareness, and response.

## **2. Technology Protection Measure**

A technology protection measure is a specific technology that blocks or filters internet access.

The school or library must enforce the operation of the technology protection measure during the use of its computers with Internet access, although an administrator, supervisor, or other person authorized by the authority with responsibility for administration of the school or library may disable the technology protection measure during use by an adult to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purpose. For example, a library that uses internet filtering software can set up a process for disabling that software upon request of an adult user through use of a sign-in page where an adult user can affirm that he or she intends to use the computer for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

CIPA uses the federal criminal definitions for obscenity and child pornography. The term “harmful to minors” is defined as “any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that – (i) taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion; (ii) 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 (iii) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.”

Decisions about what matter is inappropriate for minors are made by the local community. E-rate Program rules specify that “[a] determination regarding matter inappropriate for minors shall be made by the school board, local educational agency, library, or other authority responsible for making the determination.”

### **3. Public Notice and Hearing or Meeting**

The authority with responsibility for administration of the school or library must provide reasonable public notice and hold at least one public hearing or meeting to address a proposed technology protection measure and Internet safety policy. For private schools, public notice means notice to their appropriate constituent group.

Additional meetings are not necessary – even if the policy is amended – unless those meetings are required by state or local rules or the policy itself.

[Amy Orlomoski](#)

[Librarian/Director](#)

## **INTERNET SAFETY POLICY**

### Introduction:

In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) [Pub. L No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)], in order to remain eligible for certain federal funding, it is the policy of the Andover Public Library to: (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors.

### Access to Inappropriate Material:

Internet filters are used to block access to inappropriate information, specifically visual depictions of material deemed obscene, or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors.

As required by CIPA, filters may be disabled for adults 18 years or older who it for bona fide research or any other lawful purpose. Users may speak with a library clerk to request unblocking of a blocked site.

### Inappropriate Network Usage:

To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications.

### Education, Supervision and Monitoring:

Library staff will educate, supervise, and monitor appropriate usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy.

Adopted by the Andover Library Board of Directors – March 2, 2020