

## The Learning Choice Academy

**Subject:** Student Internet Safety and Use Policy

**Policy #2000-12**

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) is a federal law enacted by Congress to address concerns about access to offensive content over the Internet on school and library computers. CIPA imposes certain types of requirements on any school or library that receives funding for Internet access or internal connections from the E-rate program – a program that makes certain communications technology more affordable for eligible schools and libraries.

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). Before adopting this Internet safety policy, schools and libraries must provide reasonable notice and hold at least one public hearing or meeting to address the proposal.

Schools subject to CIPA are required to adopt and enforce a policy to monitor online activities of minors.

Schools and libraries subject to CIPA are required to adopt and implement an Internet safety policy addressing: (a) access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet; (b) the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications; (c) unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking," and other unlawful activities by minors online; (d) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors; and (e) measures restricting minors' access to materials harmful to them (CIPA information courtesy of <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/cipa.html>).

It is the responsibility of TLC staff to educate, supervise, and monitor appropriate usage of the online computer network and access to the internet in accordance with this procedure and CIPA, the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act, and the Protecting Children in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act. IT staff will assist schools sites by providing training materials and online resources for age- appropriate training of students who use TLC's internet facilities. Each school site lead is responsible for ensuring that each student receives this training before accessing the district's Internet facilities. The training provided will be designed to promote the district's commitments to: (1) The standards and acceptable use of internet services as set forth in this procedure and internet safety policy; (2) Student safety with regard to safety on the internet; appropriate behavior while online, on social networking websites, and in chat rooms; and cyberbullying awareness and response. (3) Compliance with CIPA E-rate requirements.

Following participation in this training, each student will acknowledge that he/she has received the training, understands it, and will adhere to the provisions of the district's acceptable use policies.

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TLC students are subject to the following CIPA-compliant policies regarding internet use:

- Use of the Internet is a privilege and access is voluntary. TLC has the right to set and enforce rules and regulations concerning the use of the Internet computer stations.
- Internet use is limited to thirty minutes if other patrons are waiting to use the station.
- TLC staff cannot provide in-depth training concerning Internet computer jargon or personal computer use.
- The Internet is a global electronic network without government control of its users or content. TLC cannot be responsible for the reliability or quality of information found on the Internet. The Internet may contain material of a controversial nature. Parents must assume responsibility for their children's use of the Internet.
- Sexually explicit or sexually suggestive (obscene/pornographic) material access and/or viewing are prohibited. Users must also refrain from inappropriate Internet conduct. Examples of inappropriate conduct include, but are not limited to: violation of computer security systems, violation of another user's privacy, violation of computer usage policies, use of the Internet for unlawful, indecent or malicious activities, misrepresentation of oneself, use of abusive or objectionable language, engaging in harassing behavior such as sending or posting slanderous, libelous, obscene or threatening messages, and other activities that could cause congestion and disruption of networks and systems.
- Users must respect all copyright laws and licensing agreements pertaining to software, files and other resources obtained via the Internet computer.
- The Internet computer is not to be used for solicitation, advertisement, or for any other commercial purposes.
- TLC reserves the right to review any materials stored in files to which all Internet users have access, and will remove any material which, in its opinion, does not comply with this document.
- TLC makes no warranties, expressed or implied, that the functions or content of the system will meet any user's specific requirements, or that it will be error-free or trouble-free, current or uninterrupted; nor be liable for any direct or indirect, incidental, or consequential damages (including lost data or information) sustained or incurred in connection with the use, operations, or inability to use the system.
- In consideration for the privilege of using the Internet computer and for having access to the information contained on the Internet computer, users hereby release and hold harmless TLC, the operators of the Internet computer, and any institutions with which they are affiliated from any and all claims of any nature arising from the use, or inability to use, the Internet computer.

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- Users whose conduct on the Internet is deemed inappropriate and/or users who access sites that are deemed inappropriate for a public setting will have their Internet privileges revoked