



# Understanding CIPA Requirements

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**Internet Safety  
Training –  
A CIPA  
Requirement**

# Why Is This Required

The **Children's Internet Protection Act** ("CIPA"), enacted December 21, 2000, requires recipients of federal **E-Rate** funds to comply with certain Internet filtering and policy requirements.

# CIPA Requirements

## CIPA Requirements Include:

1. Acceptable Use Policy (Internet safety policy) -  
**“Say What You Do, Do What You Say”**
2. Technology protection measure (filter)

# CIPA Requirements

## Policy issues that must be addressed:

- Access by minors to inappropriate material
- Safety/security of minors when using e-mail, chat rooms, other direct electronic communications
- Unauthorized access, including “hacking” and other unlawful activities by minors online
- Unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information regarding minors
- Measures designed to restrict minors’ access to materials harmful to minors

# CIPA Requirements

## 2. Technology protection measure (filter)

- Specific technology that blocks or filters Internet access
- Must protect against access by adults and minors to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors
- Can be disabled for adults engaged in bona fide research or other lawful purposes
- Local decision as to what to filter and whether to allow a filter by-pass

# Training Requirements

## Updates to CIPA

- A provision of the **Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act** requires that the AUP or Internet safety policy include measures for educating minors about appropriate online behavior.

# Training Requirements

## Internet Safety Training requirements under CIPA

- By July 1, 2012, your Internet safety policy should have been amended to provide for the education of minors to include:
  - Appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking sites and in chat rooms
  - Cyberbullying awareness and response.



# New Requirements

## Additional information on new requirements

- Training requirement began with the 2012 school year
- How this will be implemented is a local authority decision
- Again....”**Say What You Do, Do What You Say**”

# Training Requirements

## Providing evidence training has been provided

- E-Rate applicants must file a Form 486 each year, certifying they are CIPA compliant
- As a review of that application, or during a federal audit, applicants may be asked for evidence including:
  - Dates training took place
  - Roster of students trained
  - Plans for training students not present during “whole group” presentations

# Training Requirements

## Frequently Asked Questions addressed by the FCC

**Q 1. Are districts/schools receiving E-Rate funding required to provide education about appropriate online behavior to their students every year?**

Schools should determine how frequently they will provide educational programs or curriculum by evaluating local or community needs, and should retain documents demonstrating the frequency with which they provide their students with such programs or access to such curriculum.

**Q 2. Do schools need to ensure the education of every student in order to be able to certify they are educating minors about appropriate online behavior?**

Schools should provide education about appropriate online behavior to their students who are actually accessing the Internet using E-Rate covered services.

# Training Requirements

## FCC Frequently Asked Questions cont.

**Q. 3 What should schools include in their Internet safety policies, and what documents should schools retain to demonstrate compliance with the requirement to educate minors about appropriate online behavior?**

It is sufficient for a school's Internet safety policy to specify that the school educates its students about appropriate online behavior. A school is not required to provide details about the curriculum, trainings or other educational programs it has chosen in the Internet safety policy itself. Although the FCC does not require schools to specify curriculum in their Internet safety policies, they should keep records of the implementation of their chosen method(s) for educating minors about appropriate online behavior.

# Contact Information

## E-Rate Support and Information

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