

**Next Generation
Technology**

A district, in the administration of the district, shall consider using next generation technologies, including cryptocurrency, blockchain technology, and artificial intelligence. *Gov't Code 2054.601*

**Children's Internet
Protection Act**

Under the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), a district must, as a prerequisite to receiving universal service discount rates, implement certain internet safety measures and submit certification to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). *47 U.S.C. 254* [See Universal Service Discounts, below, for details]

Districts that do not receive universal service discounts but do receive certain federal funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) must, as a prerequisite to receiving these funds, implement certain internet safety measures and submit certification to the Department of Education (DOE). *20 U.S.C. 7131* [See ESEA Funding, below, for details]

Definitions

Harmful to Minors

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

1. Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
2. 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
3. Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

47 U.S.C. 254(h)(7)(G); 20 U.S.C. 7131(e)(6)

*Technology
Protection
Measure*

"Technology protection measure" means a specific technology that blocks or filters internet access. *47 U.S.C. 254(h)(7)(I)*

**Universal Service
Discounts**

An elementary or secondary school having computers with internet access may not receive universal service discount rates unless a district submits to the FCC the certifications described below at Certifications to the FCC and a certification that an internet safety policy has been adopted and implemented as described at Internet Safety Policy, below, and ensures the use of computers with internet access in accordance with the certifications. *47 U.S.C. 254(h)(5)(A); 47 C.F.R. 54.520*

Certifications to the
FCC

A district that receives discounts for internet access and internal connections services under the federal universal support mechanism for schools must make certifications in accordance with 47

C.F.R. 54.520(c) each funding year. A district that only receives discounts for telecommunications services is not subject to the certification requirements, but must indicate that it only receives discounts for telecommunications services. *47 C.F.R. 54.520(b)*

*With Respect to
Minors*

A district must submit certification that the district:

1. Is enforcing a policy of internet safety for minors that includes monitoring their online activities and the operation of a technology protection measure with respect to any of its computers with internet access that protects against access through such computers to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors;
2. Is enforcing the operation of such technology protection measure during any use of such computers by minors; and
3. Is educating minors, as part of its internet safety policy, about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response.

47 U.S.C. 254(h)(5)(B)

*With Respect to
Adults*

A district must submit certification that the district:

1. Is enforcing a policy of internet safety that includes the operation of a technology protection measure with respect to any of its computers with internet access that protects against access through such computers to visual depictions that are obscene or child pornography; and
2. Is enforcing the operation of such technology protection measure during any use of such computers.

47 U.S.C. 254(h)(5)(C)

Disabling for
Adults

An administrator, supervisor, or other person authorized by a district may disable the technology protection measure during use by an adult to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purpose. *47 U.S.C. 254(h)(5)(D)*

Internet Safety
Policy

A district shall adopt and implement an internet safety policy that addresses:

1. Access by minors to inappropriate matter on the internet and the World Wide Web;
2. The safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications;

3. Unauthorized access, including “hacking,” and other unlawful activities by minors online;
4. Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors; and
5. Measures designed to restrict minors’ access to materials harmful to minors.

47 U.S.C. 254(l)

Public Hearing

A district shall provide reasonable public notice and hold at least one public hearing or meeting to address the proposed internet safety policy. *47 U.S.C. 254(h)(5)(A)(iii), (l)(1)(B)*

Inappropriate for Minors

A determination regarding what matter is inappropriate for minors shall be made by a board or designee. *47 U.S.C. 254(l)(2)*

ESEA Funding

Federal funds made available under Title IV, Part A of the ESEA for an elementary or secondary school that does not receive universal service discount rates may not be used to purchase computers used to access the internet, or to pay for direct costs associated with accessing the internet unless a district:

1. Has in place a policy of internet safety for minors that includes the operation of a technology protection measure that protects against access to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors; and enforces the operation of the technology protection measure during any use by minors of its computers with internet access; and
2. Has in place a policy of internet safety that includes the operation of a technology protection measure that protects against access to visual depictions that are obscene or child pornography; and enforces the operation of the technology protection measure during any use of its computers with internet access.

A district may disable the technology protection measure to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

Certification to DOE

A district shall certify its compliance with these requirements during each annual program application cycle under the ESEA.

20 U.S.C. 7131

Uniform Electronic Transactions Act

A district may agree with other parties to conduct transactions by electronic means. Any such agreement or transaction must be done in accordance with the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act. *Business and Commerce Code Chapter 322; 1 TAC 203*

Digital Signature

A digital signature may be used to authenticate a written electronic communication sent to a district if it complies with rules adopted by the board. Before adopting the rules, the board shall consider the rules adopted by the Department of Information Resources (DIR) and, to the extent possible and practicable, make the board's rules consistent with DIR rules. *Gov't Code 2054.060; 1 TAC 203*