



FILTERING SYSTEM/INTERNET

Responsibility:	<i>Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being Senior Manager, Information Technology Services</i>
Legal References:	
Related References:	<i>AP 4070 - Responsible Use Procedure for Information, Communication and Collaboration Technologies</i>
Revisions:	<i>June 2019</i>
Reviewed:	<i>June 2019</i>

1. Preamble

The procedures that follow outline expectations regarding filtering students' access to the Internet.

2. Procedures

- 2.1 The Internet is an exciting source of educational information and dialogue. Along with the excitement have come concerns voiced by administrators, educators and parents about students' potential access to inappropriate materials via the Internet.
- 2.2 The Waterloo Region District School Board's Acceptable Use Guideline states that the Board will make every effort to protect students and staff from misuse and abuse of Internet services, and will take all responsible steps to ensure that these services are used only for purposes consistent with the Board's learning outcomes.
- 2.3 The Board's first responsibility in this area is "to provide filtering protection which will restrict access to material that has no educational value or is inappropriate, such as material deemed to be racist, pornographic, dangerous, or obscene."
- 2.4 The installed filtering package assists the Board in permitting access to Internet sites with educational value. It also assists in restricting access to Internet sites that are deemed as "inappropriate" based on the guidelines set out in AP 4070 - Responsible Use Procedure for Information, Communication and Collaboration Technologies.
- 2.5 The filtering software inspects all requests that pass between the Board's network and the Internet. It compares each request to a list of categorized sites that contain information deemed inappropriate. It passes along all requests for connection to appropriate sites and it rejects all requests for connection to inappropriate sites.
- 2.6 While the software will provide the highest level of content management available today, we cannot win this battle with a software program alone. There is a process in place that allows for concerned staff, students and parents to request that a site be blocked or unblocked. Supervision is critical. The Responsible Use Procedure outlines the responsibilities of our schools and of all users.
- 2.7 Each school is responsible for:
 - 2.7.1 providing access to telecommunications services, as appropriate, to all students who have turned in their signed permission form;
 - 2.7.2 monitoring the students' use of the telecommunications services for appropriate use and behaviour;

- 2.7.3 dealing with student abuse of privileges in a matter consistent with the school code of behaviour.
- 2.8 Users of the telecommunications services are responsible for:
 - 2.8.1 being prepared to use these services for educational purposes;
 - 2.8.2 using the resources and technology ethically and in an appropriate manner;
 - 2.8.3 adhering to the guidelines and/or rules of etiquette promoted by their school/site.
- 2.9 Note: People often confuse the firewall and filtering system. The firewall is a protection software to prevent access to Board electronic information by individuals outside the organization or unauthorized personnel from inside the organization.