

Children Internet Protection Act

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The Children Internet Protection Act (CIPA) is federal law which mandates the use of internet filters/barriers, to protect children from explicit content on the internet. This law went into effect on April 2001. The law placed restrictions on the use of funding that was made readily available to educational institutions such as libraries and schools. According to the "American Library Association. Org", the CIPA regulations that was issued by the FCC were very brief, and concise, they are as followed:

- Funded institutions must provide suitable and effective Internet safety policies.
- Unsafe content, such as child pornography or other potentially disturbing images, must be blocked.
- Qualifying institutions must hold a minimum of one public hearing and provide ample notice regarding safety proposals.

These new policies included internet safety, and technology. These policies help to block certain materials from being accessed by children, for example pornography. Public administrative staff, including teachers and librarians were responsible for overseeing CIPA adherence. The final date for this compliance was July 1, 2004. As an incentive to change, a federal service known as E-rate, an internet service discount which was given to CIPA complain institutions.

The internet is very useful, it can serve many purposes and students are among the group of people that the internet is very the most beneficial for. Students get to learn and study material from a wide range of websites. Therefore, it was important that the internet be a fully integrated part of the education system. While Using the internet for learning purposes, the students can do

it anywhere. Sometimes it may happen that one has a question at the time where there is no possibility to reach out to a teacher; turning to the internet to see if there can be the answer the person is seeking is now an option. The internet has been serving for research purposes, one of its main qualities is the speed at which one can find the seeking answer. However, the internet does not serve only for studying and research purposes. There are many websites on the internet that are displaying content that is not appropriate for children. The internet is a very good tool in education, one that can help and boost students' learning processes for student of all age. Therefore, there had to be some regulation to prevent children to have contacts with contents that are not appropriate to them on the internet. In intent of doing so, the schools are monitoring students to provide the protection needed.

The children internet protection act in the United States of America is the leader in protecting children from online dangers. Online dangers include sites that kids should not go on to such as porn sites or dark web sites. Children could easily stumble on to these sites by spelling certain words wrong or by clicking on sites that appears in ads on the corners of the screen. If not supervising the kids who are using the internet, they could easily be unaware to who they are communicating to behind the other computer screen. These kids could easily be talking to older people who are looking to take advantage of young kids for their bodies, knowledge of what is going on around them.

Kids could stumble upon scams on the internet and if they know where their parents' card is, or if the card is already saved on to the computer the kid could spend their own parent's hard-earned money either on purpose or by accident from being tricked by a scammer. Kids could stumble on to certain sites such as porn sites and that could ruin how they see another individual and or treat an individual, because what they have seen on the sites. Social media is a huge trend

in the world today, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and so on. Web sites like those previously named can easily fool a young child to think they are communicating with somebody their own age. They could be communicating with an adult on the other side of the computer trying to get the kid to do what the adult wants either pedophilia or a robbery in the kids own home.

Parents can help stop this by putting up child blocks on web sites that are inappropriate for children. Certain websites like YouTube makes you sign in to prove you are over the age of 18 to look at certain videos that have been posted on their web site. Parents should supervise their kids when they are using the internet. If the parents are not home the parents should make sure that there are child blocks on their kid's computers, phones, and laptops to ensure the best safety. Television shows like "To Catch a Predator" gives a real-life perspective of how law enforcement is cracking down to help keep the internet safe for kids from people who would like to take advantage of them.

Internet filters is one of the tools that the school system uses to protect students from the internet. Internet filters are software that prevent users from accessing certain websites. Certain public schools, besides preventing students from utilizing certain search engines, are also blocking certain social media platforms. Many popular social media websites such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube are blocked. However, pornography is the most targeted by the schools' internet filters. They want to control the children's exposure to sexuality. The filtering system that the school systems uses have six different level of filtering. "The level one is the most restricted, it allows access to the whitelist and website categories such as education and Government. The level two is the most like the level three, it also blocks websites categorized as gaming. The level three allows access give access to millions of websites that give access to

many games. Website such as YouTube. The level four is the similar to the level three apart from allowing access to YouTube. Social Networking are not given access to at this level. For the level five, blogs and personal storage site are accessible under this classification, as well as all content from every other level. The level six allows students access to social networking websites and is the most open classification available” (Webswise, n.d.).