

# Technology & Internet Use Policy

As part of our mission to support the diverse needs of all our patrons, the Porter County Public Library System (the library) provides access to the Internet on library computers and through public wireless networking for personal devices. This policy is designed to ensure that Internet access at the library is safe, inclusive, and enriching for people of all ages and backgrounds. Except as set forth in this policy, the library does not monitor, filter, or endorse materials on the Internet.

## Scope

The library complies with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). The Internet access addressed in this policy refers to that which is funded in any part through the FCC's E-rate program.

## Access

- Users must use their own library card, or a guest pass, to log into a new session each time they use a computer, and for closing all applications and logging out.
- Users age 17 or older may bypass the library's Internet filter, as technology allows, upon request and with no reason required, in compliance with CIPA.
- The Internet filter cannot be bypassed for users younger than 17 years of age under any circumstances, in compliance with CIPA.
- Any user may request that a specific site be reviewed by the library if they believe the filter is in error.
- Users will comply with any time or session duration limitations.

## Safety

Internet and network-enabled technologies must be used in a responsible manner that is consistent with the library rules of conduct and federal, state, and local laws. Additionally, users of library technology shall not:

- Use the library network to access content that is legally defined as obscene, child pornography, or, in the case of persons under the age of 17, material that is harmful to minors, in compliance with CIPA.
- Engage in the unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors, in compliance with CIPA.
- Use the network for unauthorized access ("hacking") or other unlawful online activities, in compliance with CIPA.
- Disable or evade access controls or security measures, or otherwise attempt to gain unauthorized access to, interfere with, or disrupt the proper operation of library technology systems or networks.

- Attempt to redistribute, share, boost, or otherwise interfere with or manipulate the library's network or wireless signals.
- Alter configurations or install any software on library equipment.
- Deliberately propagate malicious software ("malware").

Internet users should be aware that third parties may be able to obtain information regarding users' online activities. The library does not provide private, secure, or encrypted computing devices or networks, and does not guarantee that they will operate without error or interruption.

## Protection Measures

The library has attempted to select filtering software that best complies with CIPA while providing users with the broadest possible access to constitutionally protected speech and information. However, the library acknowledges that filters are an imprecise technology, and may inadvertently permit access to material prohibited by CIPA or deny access to materials that are constitutionally protected. Internet users may not rely on filters as a perfect safeguard, and should exercise caution and discretion online. Internet users are responsible for their own appropriate and safe use of technology resources and networks.

Parents or guardians are fully responsible for providing the supervision, monitoring, and enforcement of proper use of library technology by their minor children or wards, and for enforcing any restrictions from information or content they wish to impose on their minor children. As required by CIPA, this also includes electronic mail, chat rooms, social media, and other forms of direct electronic communications. Legal guardians may choose to disable library card access to certain library computers for their own minor children, as technology allows, and according to library policy concerning the administration of a minor's account.

## Noncompliance

Failure to adhere to library policy may result in loss of privileges and/or suspension from the library.

## History

**Adopted:** January 15, 2024

**Supersedes:** Internet Policy (Adopted May 21, 1997, revised June 16, 2010)