



*Yaak School
District #24*

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Public and Parent Information on CIPA

Date: September 18, 2024

Dear Community Members, Parents, and Guardians,

Public and Parents Notifications of The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) was enacted by Congress in 2000 to address concerns about children's access to obscene or harmful content over the Internet. CIPA imposes certain requirements on schools or libraries that receive discounts for Internet access or internal connections through the E-rate program – a program that makes certain communications services and products more affordable for eligible schools and libraries. In early 2001, the FCC issued rules implementing CIPA and provided updates to those rules in 2011.

What CIPA requires

Schools and libraries subject to CIPA may not receive the discounts offered by the E-rate program unless they certify that they have an Internet safety policy that includes technology protection measures. The protection measures must block or filter Internet access to pictures that are: (a) obscene; (b) child pornography; or (c) harmful to minors (for computers that are accessed by minors). Before adopting this Internet safety policy, schools and libraries must provide reasonable notice and hold at least one public hearing or meeting to address the proposal.

Schools subject to CIPA have two additional certification requirements: 1) their Internet safety policies must include monitoring the online activities of minors; and 2) as required by the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act, they must provide for educating minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response.

Schools and libraries subject to CIPA are required to adopt and implement an Internet safety policy addressing:

- Access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet;
- The safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communications;
- Unauthorized access, including so-called “hacking,” and other unlawful activities by minors online;
- Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors; and

- Measures restricting minors' access to materials that are harmful to them.

Schools and libraries must certify they are in compliance with CIPA before they can receive E-rate funding.

- CIPA does not apply to schools and libraries receiving discounts only for telecommunications service only;
- An authorized person may disable the blocking or filtering measure during use by an adult to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.
- CIPA does not require the tracking of Internet use by minors or adults.

You can find out more about CIPA or apply for E-rate funding by contacting the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Schools and Libraries Division (SLD). SLD also operates a client service bureau to answer questions at 1-888-203-8100 or via email through the SLD website.

Yaak School District – Policy 3650: Montana Pupil Online Personal Information Protection Act can be accessed on our school website: yaakschool.org for more information.

Montana Student Privacy Alliance

Yaak School district utilizes the Montana Student Privacy Alliance which was created in 2019 to help school districts meet the requirements of House Bill 745 passed by the 2019 Montana Legislature.

What is House Bill 745? House Bill 745 requires terms of services, agreements and contracts with technology service providers and operators to have very specific language that protects student data privacy. All Montana school districts that use technology software and/or services (for example, apps, websites and other software) that uses or otherwise collects student information are required to comply with HB 745.

What is the Montana Student Privacy Alliance? The Montana Educational Technologist Association (META) and Office of Public Instruction have collaboratively developed the Montana Student Privacy Alliance as a resource for districts to find and share terms of service, agreements and contracts that comply with HB 745. The Alliance also provides professional development to help teachers and administrators make informed decisions about the technology being used in the classroom and help ensure we protect student data privacy.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 406-295-4805 or yaakteacher@yaakschool.org

Sincerely,

Sabre' Alderete
Head Teacher