Going beyond
CIPA compliance

the complete solution

Linewize
by Family Zone

WHY IS IT STILL MAKING CURRICULUM DECISIONS?

We're coming up on 20 years since CIPA was enacted by congress and a lot has changed since then. There was a time when blocking pornography and a few other websites was enough for school districts, but URL and reputation-based web filtering alone is simply not enough anymore. Protecting students has become more complex. We now have minors who have grown up only knowing life with the internet and social media. School districts must strike the right balance between safety and access to educational information.

The modern learning experience

Billions of local, federal, and state tax dollars are being spent on district bandwidth, wireless infrastructure, switching, firewalls, Chromebooks, licensing, web filtering, cybersecurity, and more. It's all to deliver a modern learning experience for our youth in order to prepare them for the world of tomorrow. However, many districts haven't thought about the reality of what that looks like in the classroom. Teachers are outnumbered by devices with distracted students and then content is blocked by a network admin that thinks they are just enforcing school policy.

Here are a couple of examples:

Example #1:

An English teacher has developed a digital lesson plan that includes rich content with video, blogs, images, forums, and games. These elements are not violating CIPA compliance, but are still being blocked by the filter. The teacher then needs to reach out to their network admin, who is extremely busy, to unblock the content so they can deliver their lesson.

Example #2:

A language arts teacher has 30 children in their class who have all been issued Chromebooks. The teacher wants the students to read text online and then use a Google document to write a summary and their opinion about it. The student has access to their science homework they forgot to do last night and decides to do that instead of the lesson plan in their language arts class.

Cyber Safety

With the evolving complexity of the online landscape at schools, it's evident that districts need to adopt more than just the standard web filter. To sustain in the modern world, schools should be giving more control back to teachers, consider how they can leverage technology to support a cyber safety initiative for students, and leverage the data they're receiving from their web filter platform to educate parents and the community on how to keep children safe online.

GIVING CONTROL BACK TO TEACHERS

It has become increasingly time-consuming and overwhelming for Network Admins and IT Directors to manage their web filter on top of the hundreds of other items they have on their plates. The IT team shouldn't be acting as the internet police and certainly shouldn't be making curriculum decisions. In a perfect world, IT would set CIPA compliance-related rules at the top and then allow teachers and instructional technologists to control what type of content they want to allow at the classroom level. Tipping the balance of power back to teachers allows them to have more control over their curriculum and leverage the district's EdTech spend to its fullest, which ultimately benefits students.

According to the Software and Information Industry Association, in the U.S. K-12 districts spend about $8.4 billion on ed-tech software per year.

Another adverse effect that many teachers are experiencing by giving each of their students devices in the classroom, is the difficulty of monitoring all the students at once. If there are 26 students all using their own Chromebook, who are supposed to be reading an article online as part of the lesson, how does the teacher know they are not being distracted by virtually anything else on the web?

Classroom management software paired with the web filter gives teachers more visibility into what their students are actually participating in and gives teachers the ability to provide immediate feedback to their students.

LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY TO BUILD A CYBER SAFETY INITIATIVE

We now have technology that has the ability to block inappropriate content at a very specific level while also monitoring student behavior online, but how can districts leverage that data they are receiving from their platform to better protect their students? Monitoring search terms provides early indicating warnings that students are contemplating self-harm, are bullying or being bullied, or are participating in or planning violence at school.

According to a CDC study, suicide is the second leading cause of death for ages 10-24, but four out of five teens who attempt suicide have given clear warning signs.

Over half of adolescents and teens have been bullied online, and about the same number have engaged in cyberbullying.

According to Counseling.org, one of the top early warning signs that school violence might occur is the expression of violence in writings and drawings by a student.

Alerting principals, counselors or school psychologists that a particular student might be showing early indicators or warning signs of being in a dangerous situation can have a dramatic impact on keeping students safe.

Cyber safety
ALERTS

EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY ON HOW TO KEEP KIDS SAFE ONLINE

Web filters that go beyond CIPA compliance, provide teacher-level access for greater granularity and provide alerts to identify early indicators of trouble, are a great start, but a complete solution involves education. Technology can only go so far—it takes a community to keep children safe and that includes the education of teachers, students and parents alike.

Technology is fast-moving and oftentimes parents and the community don't know where to start when it comes to keeping their children safe and protected online. Parents are looking at their schools to provide that support and education.

THE LINEWIZE PLATFORM

Linewize provides an ecosystem of three products—all in one platform—that solves the issues of CIPA-compliant (and beyond) filtering and control, classroom visibility, and cyber safety education for the community.

Linewize Ecosystem

Linewize School Manager

- AI to capture evasive applications
- One-to-one on or offsite
- Identify indicators of cyberbullying, self-harm, & violence

Linewize Classwize

- Integrated screen visibility with filter
- Granular control of student tabs
- Promote responsible digital citizenship

Family Zone Community

- Educate community on cyber safety
- Digital cyber safety course
- Engage parent community

Find out more with a demo.

www.linewize.com/demo
SAFEWEB (844-723-3932)

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