

Head Start of Rockland, Inc. Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) Policy

CIPA requirements include the following three items:

1. Internet Safety Policy

Head Start of Rockland, Inc. has adopted the CIPA requirements to enforce an internet safety policy that includes a technology protection measure that protects against access by adults and minors to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or with respect to use of computers with internet access by minors, harmful to minors. "Minor" is defined as any individual who is under the age of 17 (HSOR refers to minor as "children").

Head Start of Rockland, Inc.

- Limits access of children to the internet and World Wide Web.
- The safety and security of children when using any electronic is supervised and guided. There is no access to mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications.
- access including "hacking" and other unlawful activities by minors online.
- Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors; and
- measures designed to restrict minors' access to materials harmful to minors.

Head Start of Rockland, Inc. serves children ages 18 months to 5 years old. All electronic use/activity is monitored.

Head Start of Rockland, Inc. certifies that as part of their CIPA certification, the internet safety policies have been updated to provide for educating minors about appropriate online behavior. There is no interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, cyberbullying awareness, and response.

2. Technology Protection Measure

Head Start of Rockland, Inc. sonic wall/firewall technology protection measure is a specific technology that blocks or filters internet access.

This technology protection measure is in operation during the use of computers with Internet access. The agency administrator is the only person authorized with responsibility to disable the technology protection measure. For example, the internet filtering software can be disabled upon request of an adult user to the administrator and affirms that he or she intends to use the computer for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

CIPA uses the federal criminal definitions for obscenity and child pornography. The term "harmful to minors" is defined as "any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that (i) taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion; (ii) depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and (iii) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors."

Decisions about what matter is inappropriate for minors are made by the local community.

E-Rate program rules specify that "[a] determination regarding matter inappropriate for minors shall be made by the school board, local educational agency, library, or other authority responsible for making the determination." Head Start has a Board of Directors, as the primary governing body.

3. Public Notice and Hearing or Meeting

This policy is shared annually with parents at the local sites and at a Policy Council meeting.

Additional meetings are not necessary – even if the policy is amended – unless those meetings are required by state or local rules or the policy itself.

Board approved January 18, 2024