

How Wow Filter can help your School / Library with CIPA Compliance

CIPA – The Children’s Internet Protection Act – is an act passed by the American Congress in December 2000. The purpose of the CIPA is to address children’s access to content that may be offensive, on computers at their schools and libraries.

The law mandates that schools and libraries that are eligible for E-Rate funding – under which their internet costs and technology costs are made more affordable by the government – should have a CIPA rated content filtering system in place.

The FCC – Federal Communications Commission – issued a set of rules in 2001, and those rules govern the implementation of CIPA across the country. Here is a rundown on the whole set of requirements.

- Schools and Libraries applying for the E-Rate funding program must furnish proof that they have an internet safety policy in place, and that they implement technology protection measures as specified by the law.
- The internet safety policy should ensure that the organization has protection measures which filter content that may be obscene, encourage child pornography, or are harmful to minors. These protection measures need to be put in place on computers that are regularly accessed by minors.
- Schools and Libraries which fall under the purview of CIPA need to have an internet policing system in place, and all online activities of minors are to be monitored. This is to ensure the safety of minors while accessing the internet, email, chat rooms, and other forms of electronic communication.
- The protection measures need to address unlawful access – including hacking – by minors online. Any unauthorized use of the internet by minors – including sharing their information online – needs to be monitored.

The school / library wishing to go in for E-Rate funding needs to certify that all necessary safety policies and technologies are in place before applying.

Top of the line Content Filtering systems such as Wow Filter are the best option for CIPA Compliance, as they cover the entire gamut of specifications mentioned by the CIPA Act. There are two aspects to enforcing the CIPA act in a school / college

1. Installing a strong web content filtering system in place so that access to unsuitable sites is automatically blocked, and
2. Monitoring the online activities of kids using the computers at schools and libraries.

Wow Filter handles both. Organizations can choose from a range of categories to allow or block; and each account can also configure what additional sites they’d like to add to the already robust database we have in place. In addition, there is a very detailed reporting module which allows you to accurately monitor every single online activity done by every single user on your network.

What’s more, Wow Filter is absolutely free!! Schools and Libraries can just plug into the web content filtering control box provided for free from Wow Filter, and get CIPA Compliant in a minute! Wow Filter’s advanced algorithm works in real time, and as and when a new threat is detected, it is automatically added to the database in your organization’s box. Wow Filter’s



engineers are constantly working towards new innovations that'll keep improving the algorithm. So you know that your web content filtering system continues to remain the best.

Wow Filter comes with some of the simplest user controls ever. Even a non-technical user can be made administrator and can handle your entire organization's network. The filtering technology comes equipped with a few simple levels, and setting the filtering level of a particular user group is really easy. Wow Filter also makes it possible for the administrator to set up custom filter parameters for one set of users, and that can be done in a few clicks too.

Wow Filter is the only completely free CIPA Compliant web content filtering program. For further information, you can call +818.436.9571, or mail support@wowfilter.com.

