

CIPA-Compliant Internet Access Policy - PROPOSED

The Mid-Hudson Library System (MHLS) provides access to the Internet on its computers, including wireless access, and shall operate such access in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), and as such shall implement the Internet filtering protocols required by CIPA.

These filtering protocols apply to any such institution eligible for and receiving e-rate reimbursement for Internet Access under the Schools and Libraries Program of the Universal Service Fund, or eligible for and receiving Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding for the purchase of computers used to access the Internet, and, as such, apply to MHLS. The intent of these protocols is to filter descriptions or visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic, or appeal to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion and, as such, harmful to minors, which is any person under the age of 17.

Although the use by MHLS computers by minors may be rare, CIPA requires all computers of an institution to which the law applies, and which can be used to access the Internet, to be filtered, even those reserved for and only available to adult staff who are persons over the age of 17. Filtering parameters and procedures to implement this policy shall be approved by the Executive Director. An override to remove such filtering shall be available to adults on request.

Therefore MHLS shall, to the extent technically possible, and recognizing no Internet filter is 100% effective, use technology protection measures to filter and block descriptions or visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic, or appeal to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion and, as such, harmful to minors.

Additionally, MHLS does not permit unlawful activities by minors, or permit unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors, or provide minors access to direct electronic communications, such as Internet e-mail or chat rooms, unless their safety and security can be ensured by a supervising adult.