

Hallsville Independent School District

For the Consideration of the Board of Trustees

Date of Board Meeting: June 26th, 2026

Topic: Children's Internet Protection Act and HISD's Acceptable Use Policy

Background and Rationale: Approving an Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) and maintaining an internet content filter come down to two critical priorities: student safety and federal funding.

Protecting Students from Harmful Content: CIPA compliance requires districts to actively block access to obscene material, child pornography, and content harmful to minors. Additionally, the AUP outlines clear digital citizenship expectations, protecting students from cyberbullying and preventing the unauthorized disclosure of minors' personal information.

Securing Essential Federal Funding (E-Rate): To qualify for E-Rate discounts—which provide millions of dollars for school internet access and network infrastructure—the federal government mandates strict compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). Without an approved AUP and content filter, HISD risks losing this vital funding.

The Bottom Line: Implementing these measures ensures HISD keeps its federal technology discounts while keeping students safe, responsible, and focused while online.

Agenda items to be added for board consideration are:

- Discussion and approval of the Acceptable Use Policy
- Discussion and approval of the continued use of the district internet content filter, GoGuardian.

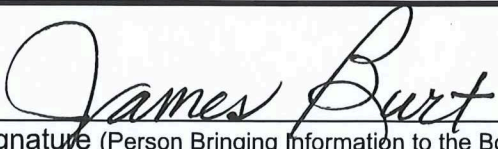
There are no additional costs for GoGuardian as the existing Technology Budget already funds it.

Relationship to Strategic Plan: Technology Director

Personnel Affected: District-Wide

Budget Implications:

- Include in this year's budget
- Amendment of this year's budget required
- Increase in this year's budget required
- Expenditures required for next year's budget
- N/A


Signature (Person Bringing Information to the Board)


Superintendent's Signature

Recommendation:

The HISD Technology Department respectfully proposes that the Board of Trustees approve the Acceptable Use Policy and authorize the persistent application of GoGuardian for internet content filtering.

Hallsville ISD

Internet Safety Policy

The following is a contract between the student, parent or guardian, and the school system. Please read carefully before signing.

With access to such vast storehouses of information and instant communication with millions of people from all over the world, material may be available that the District may not consider of educational value or that is inappropriate for distribution to children. The District has taken available precautions, including but not limited to enforcing the use of filters that block access to obscenity, child pornography, and other materials harmful to minors. However, on a global network, it is impossible to control all material, and an industrious user may access inappropriate information or material. Subject to staff supervision, technology measures may be disabled for adults or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes. The District firmly believes that the value of the information and interaction available on the Internet far outweighs the possibility that students and employees may procure material that is not consistent with our educational goals. It is all staff members' responsibility to educate students about appropriate online behavior, including interactions with other individuals on social networking sites/chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response. This may be done in a variety of ways, such as once a year short training sessions, one-on-one education with individual students, and/or via educational handouts. It is also the responsibility of all staff members to monitor students' online activity for appropriate behavior. As a student, I agree to the following terms and conditions:

- I will not use the Internet to transmit any materials in violation of any federal or state regulations. Transmission of copyrighted material, threatening or obscene materials, materials protected by trade secrets, product advertisement, or political lobbying is also prohibited.
- I will refrain from using profanity and vulgarities on the Internet. I will not use the Internet for illegal activities.
- I will not give my home address, location of my school, phone number, or any personal information about myself or any other student or school personnel to anyone via the Internet.
- I understand that use of e-mail or any other communications over the Internet is not private; any messages related to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to authorities.
- I understand that I am prohibited from conducting any actions that may endanger my safety or the safety of other students/staff members while using any component of the school's internet access and/or network (email, chat rooms, etc.).
- I will not use the Internet in a way that would disrupt the use of the network by others.
- I will respect the trademark and copyrights of materials on the Internet and assume anything accessed via the network is private property.
- The school system and service provider are not responsible for any damages or losses resulting from using Internet services or information obtained from the Internet.
- If you discover any way to access unauthorized information or defeat any security measures,

you must inform the lab teacher immediately. You must not share any unauthorized information with any other user.

- Vandalism of any kind is prohibited.
- These terms and conditions shall be governed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the state and the United States of America.
- I understand access to the Internet through the Hallsville Independent School District is a privilege. School authorities can deny any student access to the Internet at any time, and their decisions are final.

My instructor/school sponsor has explained the terms and conditions for using the Internet to me, and I agree to abide by them

Student's Signature: _____ Date _____

I have read the above forms and conditions and understand that violation of these can result in the denial of Internet privileges. I also agree not to hold the school, state, and local boards of education, or the Internet provider, responsible for the consequences resulting from the violation of these terms and conditions by the student

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date _____