

The Children's Internet Protection Act requires certain public institutions to provide Internet safety for minors "...with respect to any of its computers with Internet access..."

Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) went into effect on April 20, 2001 to help protect minors from visually offensive and explicit material displayed on Websites through the use of "technology protection measures."

CIPA requires libraries, schools and other public institutions that receive certain federal funding to provide filtered Internet use in order to protect minors against access to sexually explicit visual material, child pornography or visual information deemed harmful to minors, or risk losing funding.

The law, part of PL 106-554, requires public institutions to provide Internet safety for minors "...with respect to any of its computers with Internet access..." As libraries provide information access and resources to all ages and backgrounds, CIPA is of particular concern. Software filter technology is not effective and can block legal information that may be useful to patrons, according to the American Library Association (ALA).

Covered Entities

The law affects public institutions that offer public Internet access and receive federal funding from the E-Rate Program – a program available to eligible schools and libraries to make certain technologies more affordable.

CIPA requires schools and libraries that receive discounts offered by the E-Rate program to certify that they have Internet safety policies and technology protection measures in place to help safeguard minor's from offensive visual content on the Internet.

These measures may include software filters to block or filter inappropriate content, and adopting policy to monitor activities of minors while online. Unfortunately, many software filters fail to block 15-50% of "objectionable" sites.

3M Privacy Filter Solutions

3M™ Computer Privacy Filters can prevent the casual observance of information from other patrons by blocking the view of a computer monitor from the sides, so only those persons directly in front of the monitor are able to view the content.

Adding a 3M™ Computer Privacy Filter to Computer monitors, patrons walking by the Internet stations see only a dark, blank screen instead of inadvertently viewing content they might find offending. They also allow the patron using the computer to have an improved and more private user experience.

Unlike other privacy filters that blur information, 3M™ privacy technology blacks out information when viewed at an angle, and reduces glare to help prevent eyestrain and headaches caused by monitor use.