Murray City School District
DISTRICT SAFE TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP REPORT
2024-2025

What filters are being used, and how do they work?

Murray City School District uses the Utah Education and Telehealth Network (UETN) contracted Content Keeper content filtering system. This filtering system is the most commonly chosen among the Wasatch Front Districts from the options provided by UETN. We also use a Palo Alto firewall and Clazzwize management system with a filtering function to block content further when it is not blocked in the Content Keeper. Content is categorized as allowed or blocked according to default settings deemed appropriate for K-12 education. Chromebooks that use district email accounts cannot access the internet until the device is connected to the Content Keeper Cloud system.

Despite using industry-proven preventative measures, Internet filtering is an evolving technology. The ability to bypass filters or trick them is also evolving. The district technology department updates the content lists daily and the firmware as quickly as possible to keep the platform stable. There remains a slight chance that Murray City School District computer users may inadvertently access inappropriate sites or material. In such cases, students are encouraged to notify a school employee immediately. Employees experiencing such incidents should make a report to school-level administration. The district technology department will then follow up on these reports to take appropriate action and make needed adjustments in preventative measures.

Are there different settings used for different grades and school levels?

Although most blocked sites are blocked on all student and guest networks, we have different sets of filtering rules for elementary, junior high, and high school students. Some sites are allowed at the high school level and not at the junior high or elementary level. Similarly, there are some sites allowed at the junior high level that are not allowed at the elementary level. This gives students access to the information they need for their courses. All Chromebooks for students in grades K-6 stop working from 9:00 p.m. – 5:00 a.m. daily.

How are frequently used sites such as YouTube and Google filtered?

YouTube is blocked on Chromebooks for grades K-6. YouTube videos for elementary students are controlled through MyVRSpot as determined by teachers. YouTube is enabled on Chromebooks for grades 7-12 in restricted mode. This means only YouTube videos that have been approved by an MCSD employee are accessible. This doesn't mean only the student's teacher can approve. Approval can be given by any MCSD employee. In recent years Google has also included videos that they deem are ok for review by children under 18 that are not approved by MCSD employees.

At the secondary level, there are many YouTube links embedded in Canvas courses teachers use, so teachers have requested that YouTube be accessible, which they control on their end during the day using the district's monitoring software called Classwize. Students may only access YouTube inside the schools by logging in using their district-provided Gmail account.

Google searches are checked for specific keywords, and sites are blocked according to the content rules outlined in the filtering software. When these keywords are searched, district technology personnel are alerted.

All Chromebooks are monitored by the district, regardless of the location. This means that Google searches are checked for specific keywords, including while at home. These can be flagged by the district technology department and sent to the school administration to follow up with students and parents when accessing inappropriate content is attempted.

What management systems are used on devices that provide additional control?

Desktop and Laptop Devices: LanSchool and/or Classwize are used in our computer labs. These allow the teacher to monitor users' screens from their computer and pause computer or internet usage to keep the class focused.

Chromebook Devices: The Google management system is used and is configured to only allow extensions to the Chrome browser that the district technology department approves. This management system allows the district to manage what apps and services are available for teachers and students. The Classwize system monitors student usage; teachers can set enable or block lists while students are in their classes.

iPads: The Apple Device Management System Mosyle Manager manages all iPads in the district. This allows us to control which apps are loaded onto the devices and to purchase apps legally for school use.

Personal Chromebooks and devices are not permitted on the district network.

What resources does the district provide concerning educating students on safe internet use and digital citizenship?

In elementary school, all students will receive an online device orientation no later than October 15. They will receive at least one lesson in each of the following topics over the course of the school year: self-image and identity, cyberbullying, relationships and communication, privacy and security, and information literacy. MCSD will also follow the Common Sense Education Digital Citizenship Curriculum and its scope and sequence. Students will receive at least one lesson in each of the following six topics over the course of the school year: Media Balance and Well-Being, Digital Footprint & Identity, Privacy and Security, Relationships & Communication, Cyberbullying, Digital Drama & Hate Speech, News & Media Literacy.

In our secondary schools, specialty classes that use computers include digital citizenship as part of their curriculum. These classes include College and Career Awareness and Business/CTE classes. Each student in grades 9-12 is required to complete .5 credits of computer technology for high school graduation. Courses that fulfill this requirement include standards specifically addressing digital citizenship topics.

What resources does the district provide concerning educating parents/guardians on safe internet use and digital citizenship?

During registration, parents are provided with a short video that introduces online safety and the care of the Chromebooks provided for their students. Additionally, parents are always welcome to attend digital citizenship lessons or assemblies at their student's school.

What resources does the district provide concerning educating teachers on safe internet use and digital citizenship?

All certified teachers are required to complete the online Murray School District Citizenship and Digital Learning course through Canvas or UEN face-to-face training. This course trains teachers on digital citizenship and how to keep their tech-savvy students safe while using different technology components in and out of the classroom.

Additionally, a series of twenty-one (21) Murray School District technology certification courses are available for teachers online through Canvas. These courses can be completed if teachers want to strengthen their knowledge of digital learning in the classroom.

Two (2) technology instructional coaches are available for teachers regarding digital citizenship and digital learning needs.

What is the protocol when inappropriate content is accessed?

Teachers are asked to monitor students whenever they are online, either electronically or by walking around the classroom.

When inappropriate content is accessed by a student or staff member (seemingly by accident or on purpose), the student or students should be removed from the situation, and the school administration should be notified. The devices should be isolated, and the district technology department should be contacted. Besides fixing any issue discovered, the district technology department will work with the school administration to gather information and take appropriate measures if the Acceptable Use Policy is violated.

E-Rate Funding

Federal E-Rate funding is used to pay for the Internet connections between our schools, the district office, and the Utah Education Network. E-Rate funding is also used to update network equipment in our schools.