

## CIPA: A Guide for Parents

Protecting our Students from Harmful Content Online



*Photo by [Kari Shea](#) on [Unsplash](#)*

### What is CIPA?

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), passed in 2000, is a federal law that requires schools and libraries receiving discounts for internet services to have internet safety policies and technology to block or filter harmful or obscene material on the internet on school computers.

By taking the time to learn about CIPA and the resources available, parents can help protect their children from harmful online content and ensure their safety while using the internet. This can include setting up parental controls on devices, monitoring children's online activity, and having open conversations about internet safety and privacy. By working together, parents and schools can create a safer online environment for children and help them navigate the digital world responsibly.

## How Northside Implements CIPA

Northside ISD complies with CIPA requirements by implementing several resources and policies.

- We have developed policies and procedures for both staff and students regarding the use of school devices and the Internet, which are referred to as Acceptable Use Policies.
- We provide education to students at all grade levels about internet topics, such as:
  - Appropriate Behavior Online
  - Safety and Privacy
  - Cyberbullying
- We provide technology protection measures to prevent students from accessing or receiving harmful material and safeguard student privacy information.

## Internet Safety at Home

While CIPA requires Northside to have resources in place to limit a student's online activity, these resources may not be available at home. Here are some ways to help keep students safe no matter where they access the internet.

- Encourage open communication about internet and technology usage.
- Monitor student activity on websites and applications where communication between participants is allowed.
- Talk about being safe online and not sharing personal information with strangers.





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## COPPA, CIPA, KOSA, Oh My!

### Protecting our Students from Harmful Content Online

#### What are COPPA, CIPA, and KOSA?

The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), passed in 1998, is a federal law that requires parental consent for websites and online services to collect or use personal information from children under 13. For more information, please visit [ftc.gov/business-guidance/privacy-security/childrens-privacy](https://ftc.gov/business-guidance/privacy-security/childrens-privacy).

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The Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA) is a proposed law that would require age verification on platforms and would give the authority to decide what is determined to be dangerous content for minors to the Attorney General. *This has not been passed into law as of September 2024.* For more information, please visit [congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1409](https://congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1409).