REQUEST TO UNBLOCK WEBSITE
Midland ISD

As part of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), the District is required to have in place a "filtering/blocking device" on all computers with Internet access. The filter/blocking device must attempt to protect against access to visual depictions that are obscene, harmful to minors and child pornography. The district is currently blocking, for all users, the following categories as: Adult/Sexually Explicit-groups, Cults, Criminal Activity, Games, Gambling, Proxies & Translators and Peer-to-Peer.

In addition, certain other categories of websites may be blocked by default, such as web-based e-mail, blogs, shopping, to protect our bandwidth and resources.

It is possible for us to unblock websites, either globally or for specific categories of users, in certain circumstances.

1. *Educational Purposes*:   there is educational material being blocked.
   District policy states that "Internet access must be in support of education and research, consistent with the educational objectives of Midland ISD." Where access to certain sites consistent with this purpose is blocked, the specific site may be unblocked *through building principal approval*.

2. *Staff/Job-related purposes*: If you need a website unblocked related to your job (for example, Purchasing, law enforcement, bona fide research), then submit the same form through your supervisor. If, in the opinion of the network administrator, *there is no threat to the network or resources*, we will unblock the site.

The District is currently using a filtering device from iboss Network Security. If a teacher wishes to use a blocked site they must have this form completed, signed by the principal and sent to the technology department by fax to 432-689-1907. Principals are advised to look at these sites before signing since questions regarding the unblocked site will be directed to the building principal.

In the event of contradictory requests from different schools, the issue will be escalated to the curriculum department.   It is only possible to unblock specific web addresses, or domains.   A request cannot be made to unblock an entire category of items.

Procedure:
1) Network department receives Request To Unblock Website form, signed by a Principal or Administrative Supervisor.
2) Network personnel check to see why this address is currently blocked (which category). If the request is for content forbidden to the district as a whole under CIPA rules, the request will be denied.   If the request contradicts a previous request, the request will be escalated to the Teaching & Learning department.   There are different policies in place for student logins vs. staff logins vs. law enforcement or special groups.   One policy applies to all campuses.
3) If, in the judgment of the network staff, the request *is in compliance* with the procedures above, and unblocking this website *does not compromise network resources*, the address or site will be unblocked.   The network staff will file and retain all received forms.

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Building _____   Date of Request _____

Web Site address to unblock _____

Short explanation of need for unblocked site _____

_____

_____

_____

Grade and Teaching Subject: _____

Name//Title of Requester: _____

Signature of Requester: _____

Signature of Principal/Supervisor: _____

Office Use: Date unblocked _____   By Whom _____

Unblocked for which sites _(URL)_____

Unblocked for which user type: _____

Web Filter Policy Name: _____