

## CIPA and the Internet Challenge for Schools

The Internet has proven to be a great asset for educators with more research data becoming available online every year. Schools are wisely using the Internet as a tool in classrooms and libraries and many students have some computer experience before they enter kindergarten.

Educators also know that the Internet is a double-edged sword. While easy Internet access means students have a wealth of valuable information at their fingertips, the Internet also delivers material and unwanted agents that can harm both students and your school's networks. In addition, the proliferation of social networking sites such as Myspace and Facebook has affected educators trying to maintain students' attention.

Congress moved to protect students and schools with what has come to be known as the Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA), passed in 1999. CIPA was created and tied to E-rate funds in order to induce elementary and secondary schools and libraries to take measures to filter and block unwanted Internet content from reaching students. The E-rate program helps schools and libraries pay for products and services such as Internet access, internal network connections and telecommunications and are an important funding adjunct to school budgets.



“With iPrism, our school not only meets, but exceeds compliance requirements for CIPA and state of Pennsylvania mandates. You can't put a price on that kind of value add.”

— Michael White, Systems Administrator,  
Nueva Esperanza Academy

## iPrism Designed for Schools

### Value-Priced, Easy-to-Use Technology

iPrism, the Internet filtering appliance originally designed for schools, provides the low-cost, low-maintenance solution that meets your requirements for accurate and secure filtering while allowing you to achieve critical CIPA compliance.

**Self-Contained Solution** — With the iPrism solution, there is no additional hardware or software required. iPrism's low acquisition price includes everything needed for accurate monitoring, filtering and reporting. Some Web filtering solutions charge a premium for features such as instant message and peer-to-peer blocking. With iPrism, you pay one low price to receive full functionality. Installing iPrism takes only minutes. As Joe Huber from the Greenwood School District explained, “We had the iPrism product running in thirty minutes. In comparison, it took us days to install our previous software-based solutions.”

**Customized Filtering** — iPrism's convenient central management console lets you customize filtering to meet your school's requirements. You can create different groups and give them different levels of access, helping you create an environment where the Internet can function as an important research tool for different audiences — teachers, elementary students, high school or college-age students — and still keep each audience safe from objectionable content or unproductive Web surfing. You will also be protecting your network from harmful spyware or malware that could enter from outside via IM, P2P or dangerous URLs.

**Maintenance Free** — Once your iPrism is up and running, it operates virtually maintenance-free, another plus for busy school IT professionals. Your iPrism receives automatic database updates every night and in the case of critical security categories, updates can arrive hourly. Product upgrades are also automatically downloaded as they become available. According to Huber, “With our prior solution, we had to install software and settings on these machines as well. Now we don't have to do a thing.”

**Satisfied Customers** — If there ever is a need to call St. Bernard Technical Support, you can count on a quick response. With customer satisfaction rates of 98%, it's clear that St. Bernard has been giving people the help they need. And because iPrism is a self-contained solution with its own hardened and optimized OS, you won't spend time tracking down the origin of your problem as you would with a software solution. With iPrism, you only have to make one call.

### Reliability and Accuracy

In addition to providing a cost-effective easy-to-use solution, iPrism is in step with schools when it comes to security and reliability. It's no secret that many high schools and perhaps even middle-school children have achieved technical capabilities that surpass many of the adults around them. Finding a solution that is impervious to hacking attempts such as proxy tunnels, is important and iPrism can deliver that security and reliability. iPrism's exclusive Kernel-Level Filtering gives schools the power and accuracy they need in a high-traffic environment. iPrism has its own hardened and optimized OS making it immune to hacking and in fact, iPrism has never been hacked.

**Accuracy** — The iGuard database insures that every URL categorized has been reviewed by human eyes. Other solutions depend on automated, heuristic techniques and partial human review. The iGuard database was an important factor for Sherry Hahn, District Technology Director for White Salmon Valley School District, "The 100% human review database is one of the primary reasons we chose iPrism. We can depend on the product to be consistently accurate, which is critical in an educational environment."

**Flexibility** — Having the flexibility to grant different levels of access to different groups is another reason schools choose iPrism. With 63 categories, IT administrators can easily allow for the needs of different groups. For instance teachers may need to have broader access than high-school students, who will in turn have a different access level than elementary students. iPrism makes it easy to make these important distinctions.



“The cost of the St. Bernard solution for four years was what we would have paid for one year of our previous solution.... That's a benefit that would make any school board sit up and notice.”

— Joe Huber,  
Director of Information Systems,  
Greenwood School District

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### Comprehensive Reporting is On-Box

iPrism's comprehensive on-box reporting means the reports you need for enforcing your school's Acceptable Use and Security Policies as well as critical CIPA compliance requirements are easy to generate whenever you need them. Sherry Hanh explained, "As an educational institution, we need to be able to respond immediately to requests for information regarding students and Internet usage. With iPrism we can access requested information and generate customized reports in mere seconds. It's fantastic!"

While other solutions may offer reporting, they often require additional server space or more software purchases. Only iPrism gives you all the reporting you need on-box where it is accessible from the central management console. With reporting features that include standard and customizable templates, drill-down capabilities, tabbed reporting and real-time monitoring, iPrism allows you to compile reports that meet your exact requirements, quickly and easily. In larger organizations that may have multiple iPrisms deployed, St. Bernard also offers the Enterprise Reporting Server, which aggregates reports from across deployments in seconds.

With iPrism, schools can reduce costs while keep students safe from Internet threats. iPrism's high performance and reliability with low total cost of ownership make it the Internet filtering solution of choice for schools and libraries. Call us today to learn more.