

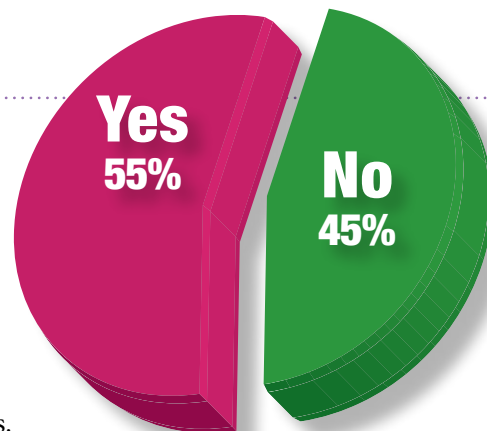
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<http://www.iste.org/LL>.

POLL RESULTS

Should We Establish National Web Filtering Standards?

Poll results suggest that slightly more members see the need for Web filtering standards, but those who commented were evenly divided.



Definitely Need Standards

In a world where our children are using the Internet to find information and communicate with others, it is important that Web filtering standards be created. Online predators, pornography, and inappropriate Web sites are only a click away. How can we keep our children innocent without Web filtering?

*Sarah E. Albanese
Summit Educational Resources
Getzville, New York*

Education Is the Answer

No. Sites that might be considered for filtering should be included in the curriculum rather than blocked. As educators, we should be developing students' critical thinking skills. Sites that are "hurtful or dangerous" lose their impact when examined critically. When students stumble upon blocked sites outside the auspices of school, they are more likely to be affected by their messages.

*Vince Ruggiano
Beaverton Schools
Beaverton, Oregon*

Age Is Primary Consideration

National Web filtering standards should be established because students/teens cannot be held responsible because of their age. Driver's licenses are required to drive, ID cards for drinking and smoking. We are required to have content filters in K-12 schools—which I would do even if it was not a law. Legal age is the key.

*David Hooper
Allen Parish School Board
Oberlin, Louisiana*

Not Worth the Time

What a waste of time it would be to establish national Web filtering standards. I worked in a school without filters, and we had very few problems. It's all classroom management. We don't have specially filtered streets to teach students to drive. Filters block access to education; as well, many students carry an unfiltered network (iPhone, Blackberry) in their pockets.

*Donna Levy
Computer Using Educators of
Southern Nevada
Las Vegas, Nevada*

ISTE Should Provide Support

I believe ISTE should not get involved in levels, topics, methods, etc., but should support the following: protections against direct government involvement in filtering; protections against conflicts of interest in filtering (commercial, political, etc.); ability to bypass at the user level, especially for teachers; and clarification of Internet safety as an instructional goal.

*Joe Makley
Association of Computer Technology
Educators of Maine
Portland, Maine*

Let Each Community Decide

I think community standards differ from place to place, and that deciding what is appropriate or inappropriate is best left up to the individual communities involved. I do not believe that we need a nationalized, Big Brother approach to Internet usage.

*Jan Maria Jagush
Bethel Middle School
Bethel, Connecticut*

CIPA Sets the Standard

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) is the lowest common denominator for Web filtering in schools, and compliant districts are, within the letter of the law, appropriately protecting minors. Setting standards that exceed CIPA is the prerogative of the district, which must weigh academic freedom and personal responsibility against community pressure and need for control.

*Cheryl Parris
Blackboard Connect Inc.
Lee's Summit, Missouri*

Letters

What About GarageBand?

Regarding the enhanced podcast article by Liz Kolb (*L&L*, September/October, 2008, p. 33), why not simply mention how easy it is to create an enhanced podcast using Apple's GarageBand software? Images can be added and set on a time line with embedded links to Web pages. There are also a lot of audio files, such as jingles, and the recorded audio can be edited. The PowerPoint solution is a messy workaround.

*Michael Vallance
Future University
Hakodate, Japan*