

# Smoothwall

## iPad Content Filtering

As a district, the first level with respect to student safety online and offline is a collaboration partnership between parents, students, and staff. Through these partnerships, everyone involved is able to understand what appropriate utilization of their device (both online and offline) looks like, why it is important, and how to handle situations when mistakes are made. Through proactive education, active monitoring both at school and home, and a focus on the educational utilization of the iPad, we are confident students will continue to benefit from the strengths of having the 1:1 resource and access to materials at their fingertips.

Q. What is a content filter?

A. A content filter (Smoothwall) is both a hardware and software that acts as a shield for users on the Glenview 34 network. As a shield, Smoothwall serves as monitor/protection between the Internet and your child's iPad by blocking access from potentially objectionable or offensive material. Similar to most content filters, Smoothwall maintains a list of sites it believes are objectionable and classifies them under different profiles, which often pertain to our students' grade level/building. Unlike most content filters, Smoothwall also utilizes a **Real-Time Content Analysis**, meaning it can identify and classify content no matter how recently it has been created, and, at the same time, identify the tell-tale signatures of the proxy sites used to try and circumvent filters.

Q. How does a content filter work?

A. The filter (Smoothwall) redirects unwanted internet traffic away from the student and staff devices, as well as blocks any opportunity to search inappropriate information. From home, or when at school, students will have to log into a secure network in order to browse the internet, and this reinforces safe searching.

Q. Who will work with my child at school to help educate them on the "do's and don'ts" of online utilization?

A. All staff - including teachers, associates and building level Technology Support - work with students to help them be safe and productive online. As a district, we utilize many resources to support internet safety education for our students. A very important component of our instructional program focuses on resources/curriculum provided by iSafe (<http://isafe.org>). Additionally, opportunities for parents to listen to experts or view/read online are provided throughout each academic year. Online safety, both the education of students and the providing of a safe environment for them to learn and grow, is very important to the entire district community.

Q. Is the content filter adjusted to meet the different needs of our primary, intermediate, and middle school buildings?

A. We have (Smoothwall) set up per building to allow/limit information based on our different age groups (Primary, Intermediate, and Middle). The Primary Building students have age restrictions on any and all content that is accessible; movie ratings are set to General Kids (G); and all other media is set to Youth (Y). This trend follows as the grade level and age of the student(s) increase only to accommodate certain applications for Middle School students.