Managing CIPA Compliance at Large School Districts
Pinellas County Schools Case Study

Background

Pinellas County Schools located in Largo Florida is ranked 21st in size by student population within the United States. As a very large school district, PCS seeks to provide the very best education to its estimated 105,000 students that attend. As a public school district, PCS seeks to ensure CIPA compliancy, providing effective internet protection from inappropriate content while allowing internet resources to be used for instructional purposes.

Challenge

Common with all other K12 school districts across the nation, PCS as a very large school district seeks to make the Internet a safe place for instruction. However protecting staff and students from inappropriate internet content as a very large district is challenging. With approximately 75,000 computers, 15% of being Macintosh, a growing mobile device population, in addition to a large student and staff user group, the need to implement a "scalable" web filtering solution is extremely important.

- With 75,000 computers, 750mb internet pipe and a large end-user population - **the content filter solution must be able to handle a great amount of internet data traffic.**
- Due to a mixture of Windows, Macintosh and mobile devices - **a mixed OS content filter is critical.**
- Search engines showing nude images - **requires a filter that does not rely solely on "safe search" protection.**

- With over 105,000 students and 14,000 staff - **it is vital that effective directory services authentication happens to ensure proper filtering profiles for staff & students.**
- **Filtering http/https Youtube & other video data** by user group **without effecting other internet applications** such as Google docs is a must.
- **Ease of use filter interface and detailed reporting essential.**

The Solution

After a year long search consisting of multiple content filtering evaluations, Pinellas County Schools determined that **iboss web filters** delivered the best overall solution for their large district needs. Iboss delivered nicely in all key areas of their needs and challenges: excellent scalability, seamless Active Directory integration for proper policy application for students and staff, mixed authentication capabilities ensuring that Windows, Macintosh and mobile devices are filtered correctly, ease of use, detailed reporting, highly effective HTTP and HTTPS inspection and content filtering.

- **Iboss delivers plenty of power in compact appliances** saving data center rack space room & power.
- **HTTP & HTTPS filtering** effective in allowing content for instruction by accurately applying end-user policies.
- **Accurate mixed authentication** of Windows, Mac and wireless mobile devices ensures filtering of all devices.

- **Sophisticated HTTPS application filtering** effectively filters https Youtube and other undesired https apps & videos while ensuring desired apps like Google docs.
- **Ease of use with excellent reporting** allows PCS staff to "know who is going where" & easily rectify.
- **Iboss technical support** excellent and responsive

Conclusion

Iboss web filters ensures that Pinellas County Schools can effectively use the internet without concern of internet slow-downs or degradation. When a PCS technical manager was asked what he liked about iboss, the answers say it all. "Iboss is easy to use, has excellent support and it just works. No more complaints from teachers due to the incorrect policies getting applied. The only complaints we hear are from students who can no longer get around the filter. Iboss does not require near as much hardware as what we used in the past saving maintenance and data center power. Iboss is a very good product and the support is excellent."