



BUSINESS DEPARTMENT – Financial Services
Technology & Information Services Branch
1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, CA 90810
(562) 997-8000

Date: June 10, 2003
To: All Schools and Offices
From: Matt Woods, Network Administrator
Subject: SEARCH ENGINE RESTRICTIONS

Protecting our students and staff from objectionable Internet content has been a major concern and focus of Technology & Information Services. The District continues to make large investments in this area for the purpose of enhancing instruction.

For many months, Technology & Information Services and the Technology Curriculum Office has been assessing the content of multimedia images and video files that are available from several search engines (such as Google, AltaVista, WebCrawler, etc.). Objectionable web pages that can be produced from such searches are being blocked. However, some images and “thumbnail” pictures can be seen in the search results. Technology & Information Services considers this situation unacceptable. Therefore, we must take action to protect our students and staff and to comply with various federal and state regulations.

Effective immediately, the District has begun blocking multimedia search engines such as Google. As an alternative, Picsearch (www.picsearch.com) and AskJeeves (www.ask.com) do allow for multimedia searches without producing objectionable results. Therefore, multimedia content searching (i.e. images and videos) will continue to be available from these sites. As always, copyright laws must be observed when reproducing intellectual material (text, images, audio or video). You may also wish to review the District Internet And Electronic Mail Guidelines And Procedures (<http://www.lbusd.k12.ca.us/Technology/Standards/accept.htm>) regarding copyrighted materials.

Let me clarify that standard web searching will continue to be available on ALL search engines (Google, AltaVista, WebCrawler, InfoSeek, MetaCrawler, Excite, etc.). It is only the multimedia searches that will be subject to an additional level of filtering and blocking.

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Tomio Nishimura
Chief Business & Financial Officer