

# Student Filter Policies

VUSD uses the Securly web filter to ensure student web experience is consistent both on school campus and off.

Securly uses a Chrome plugin that restricts or allows student access to websites when they log into a Chrome based device or browser using their VSD.org accounts.

The majority of sites understood by the Securly filter are categorized by use or intent. For example, Canvas, the Learning Management System used by VUSD would be categorized as EDUCATIONAL.

Below are the categories currently set for Blocking and Allow:

## Blocked Categories

- **Pornography**  
Websites with sexually explicit content and nudity.  
Like pornhub.com and hotchatdate.com
- **Drugs**  
Websites that provide info about prescription and recreational drugs.  
Like leafly.com, marijuana.com and addictions.com
- **Gambling**  
Anything that promotes betting or risky actions for a reward.  
Like 888.com, gamble.com, and freelotto.com
- **Other adult content**  
Explicit content that may include violence, alcohol, or graphic content.  
Like Fanfiction.net, people.com and victoriasecret.com
- **Social media**  
Media hosting communities with forums or communities that allow generated content.  
Like instagram.com, pinterest.com and reddit.com
- **Social networking**  
Sites used to create personal and professional relationships.  
Like facebook.com, linkedin.com, twitter.com, plus.google.com, and myspace.com
- **Network misuse**  
Websites that allow anonymity, hacking, or evasion.  
Like 123movies.to, youtube-mp3.org, worldstarhiphop.com, and microsofttranslator.com
- **Chat/Messaging**  
Websites that have their own instant messaging services.  
Like skype.com, kik.com, messenger.com and flashgamesforum.com
- **Web mail**  
Email services that can be accessed on any device connected to the Internet.  
Like yahoo.com, hotmail.com, outlook.com, mail.com
- **Intolerance**  
Any content that hatefully targets another person or group.  
Like kkk.com and barenakedislam.com
- **Other search engines (No safe search)**  
Search engines that don't have a supported Safe Search function.  
Like chacha.com, mystart.com, ask.com and duckduckgo.com

- **Streaming media**  
Sites that host video or audio content that can be watched or heard live.  
Like pandora.com, spotify.com, netflix.com and soundcloud.com
- **Games**  
Websites that feature single or multiplayer online games.  
Like agariot.com, vitalitygames.com and animaljam.com
- **Malware**  
Websites known to host malicious software.  
Like secure.eicar.org
- **Sexual content**  
Websites about sexual health or including sexual terms but not containing pornography.  
Like ashasexualhealth.org, getmegiddy.com
- **Educational games**  
Educational websites with potential to distract students.  
Like funbrain.com, cokogames.com
- **Plagiarism**  
Sites providing access to tools and resources for plagiarism detection.  
Like copyleaks.com, essaybot.com
- **Web ads**  
Ads with in-appropriate content or images appearing on otherwise clean websites.  
Like pushclk.com, lockerdome.com

#### Allowed Categories

- **Health**  
Websites with medical advice or information about human anatomy.  
Like webmd.com, livestrong.com, babycenter.com and cancer.org
- **Uncategorized**  
Websites that haven't been scanned and categorized yet.  
Like New sites, personal pages and foreign sites
- **E-commerce/Shopping**  
E-commerce or shopping website which may expose students to adult products.  
Like amazon.com, etsy.com

#### YouTube Policies

YouTube has specialized filters that based on Google categorization policies.

All elementary students (grades 5 and below) have all categories blocked. Only specific channels or URLs are set to be accessible.

All other grades have the following category settings:

#### Blocked Categories:

- Gaming

#### Allowed Categories:

- Autos & Vehicles
- Comedy
- Documentary

- Drama
- Education
- Entertainment
- Family
- Film & Animation
- Music
- News & Politics
- People & Blogs
- Pets & Animals
- People & Blogs
- Science & Technology
- Sci-Fi/Fantasy
- Sports
- Travel & Events

Some sites, even if they are in a blocked category, may have been allowed by request.

Students and teachers can make requests to the IT department to make their case about a site that may be miscategorized or unintentionally blocked.

When a site is blocked, students will receive a request form page to contest a site's block status.