

SURVEY BACKGROUND

In 2007, the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) initiated an annual survey of school library programs. The development of this longitudinal survey project was mandated by the AASL Board as part of the association's strategic plan with the goal to provide research and statistics to be used at the national, state and local levels when advocating for School Library Programs. The survey was developed through the AASL Research & Statistics committee with AASL Board review and final approval.

In addition to annual survey questions, starting in 2008 AASL began adding a series of questions that change annually and address a current issue within the school library field. In 2012 AASL focused these questions on Filtering.

2012 marked the sixth year of AASL's "School Libraries Count!" survey, with 4,385 respondents. The results represent a + 1.5 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Filtering of online content is nearly universal across schools or school libraries.

Filtering is used most frequently for social media and entertainment purposes, and used much less for news and education consumption.

- Social networking sites and IM/online chatting (88% and 74%) are among the top items identified as currently being filtered.
- Second tier mentions include gaming (69%) and video services like YouTube (66%).
- Least likely to be filtered are newsgroups (17%) and professional development tools for education (9%).

2012

SCHOOL LIBRARIES COUNT!

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON FILTERING



Among schools that report filtering, 88% are filtering content for staff as well.

- A slight majority of schools apply the same level of filtering to staff and students (56%), and three quarters use the same level of filtering for all grades of students (73%).

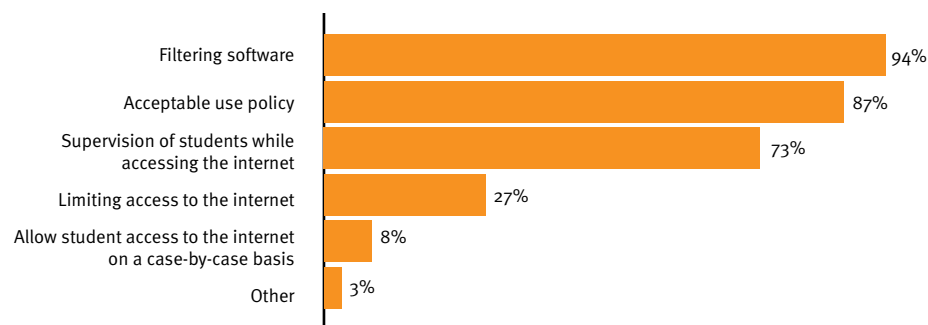
CONTENT FILTERED ONLINE

IF FILTER: Which of the following items are currently filtered in your school? (select all that apply)	All
Social networking sites	88%
IM/online chatting	74%
Gaming	69%
Video services (including YouTube, SchoolTube)	66%
Personal email accounts	41%
Peer-to-Peer File Sharing (used for downloading and sharing files)	40%
FTP (File Transfer Protocol, used for downloading large files)	32%
Newsgroups	17%
Professional development tools for education (including e-binders, Google Docs)	9%
None of the above	2%
Other	7%

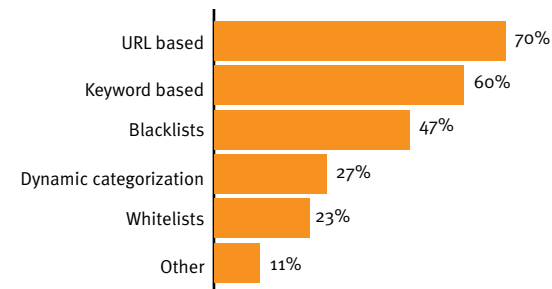
Schools use a variety of methods to filter content including filtering software, an acceptable use policy and supervision of students when accessing the internet.

- The most common types of filtering software are URL based (70%) and key word based filtering (60%).

HOW DOES YOUR SCHOOL FILTER ONLINE CONTENT



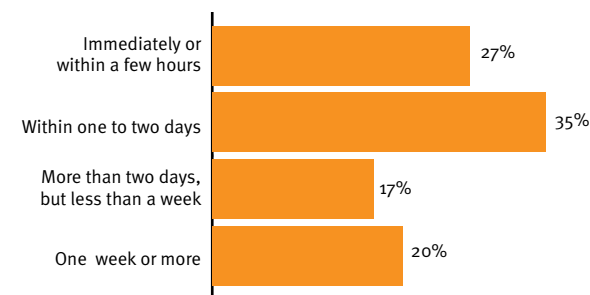
TYPES OF FILTERING SOFTWARE USED



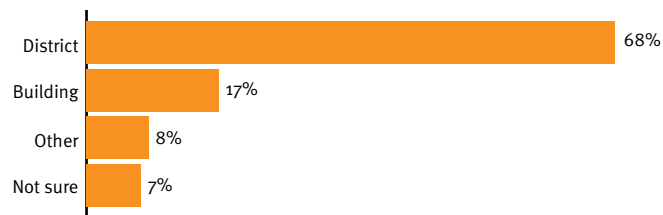
Nearly all schools can request to unblock a site, but the decision is most often made at the district level and within varying time periods.

- About a third of librarians say their request takes within one to two days (35%), while only 27% report their request is addressed immediately or within a few hours.
- 1 in 5 say it takes more than a week to unblock a site (20%).

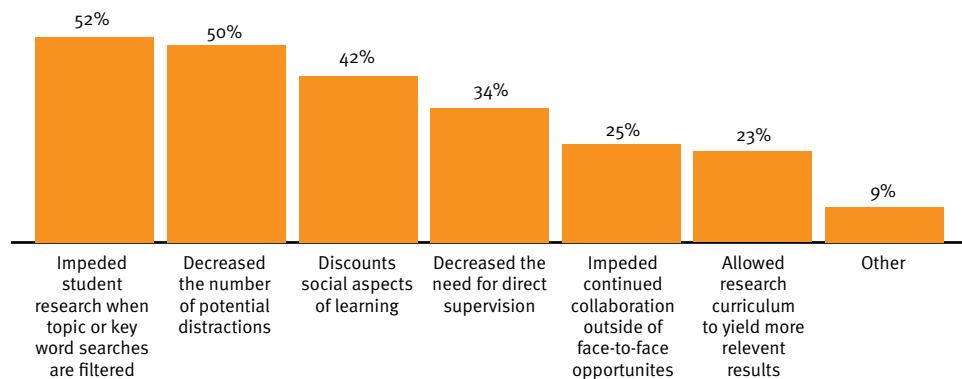
HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE FOR A SITE TO BE UNBLOCKED AFTER A REQUEST?



AT WHAT LEVEL IS THE DECISION TO UNBLOCK A SITE MADE?



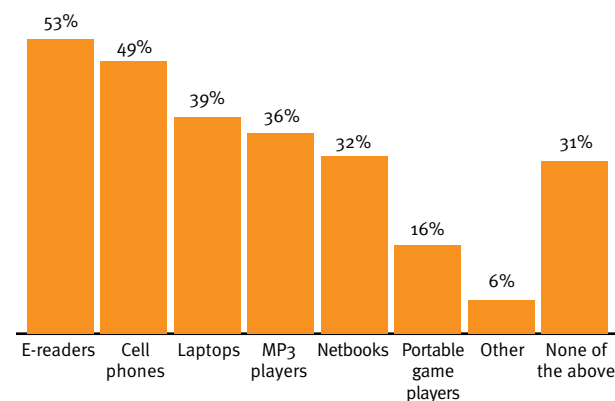
WHAT IMPACT HAVE FILTERS HAD WITHIN YOUR SCHOOL OR SCHOOL LIBRARY PROGRAM?



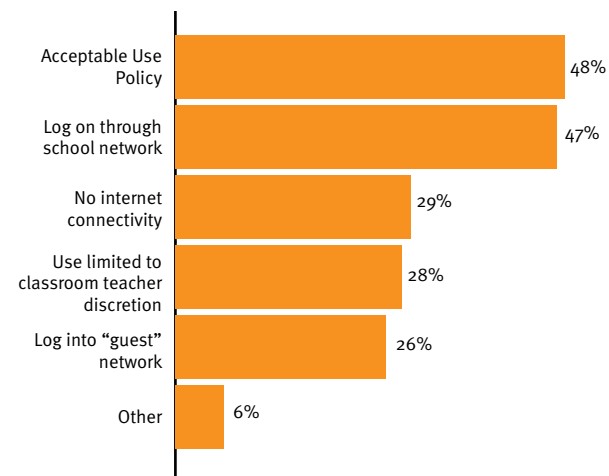
Among schools that allow portable electronic devices, half indicate their school has a filtering mechanism in place to control the content viewed on these devices.

- Those that have a filtering mechanism for personal devices most commonly filter personal devices by implementing an acceptable use policy and making students log on through school networks (48% and 47% respectively).

PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES ALLOWED



HOW ARE PERSONAL DEVICES FILTERED?





THE MISSION OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIANS IS TO ADVOCATE EXCELLENCE, FACILITATE CHANGE, AND DEVELOP LEADERS IN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY FIELD.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOL LIBRARIANS



50 E. HURON, CHICAGO, IL 60611
WWW.AASL.ORG | 800-545-2433