



Leslie Haack
Deputy Superintendent

Thursday, August 25, 2022

Cameron Samuels
C/O Brian Klosterboer
ACLU of Texas
5225 Katy Freeway, Suite 350
Houston, Texas 77007

via EMAIL bklosterboer@aclutx.org

RE: Level Two: FNG Grievance – Unlawful Filtering of Websites with Resources and Information for LGBTQ+ Students.

Dear Cameron:

On Wednesday, August 10, 2022, a Level II FNG conference was held regarding your complaint. The complaint alleges that the “Katy ISD’s filtering software appears to be improperly configured to block websites providing critical information and resources for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer students in a view-point discriminatory manner.” This response is being submitted to you on the timeline agreed to by counsel – August 25, 2022.

My investigation regarding this complaint has revealed that:

- The Katy ISD web filtering company called ContentKeeper houses a category called Alternative Sexual Lifestyles. This category does not include any GLBT oriented sites that display pornography.
- Instead, ContentKeeper filters pornography and sexually explicit material through the “Adult Content” category and other categories.
- Sometime between June and August 2021, the name of the Katy ISD’s web filter for “Alternative Sexual Lifestyles (GLBT)” was changed to “Human Sexuality.”
- Despite the name change, the Human Sexuality category continued to block LGBTQ+ websites.
- In February 2022, Cameron followed the district’s instructions and submitted a support ticket to ask to unblock specific websites housed within the Human Sexuality category in the ContentKeeper software.
- It was shared that requiring students to submit individual support tickets to selectively unblock specific websites housed within the Human Sexuality category is not a solution but requires students to reveal private information about themselves that may cause undue burden and discrimination in accessing the requested website and information.

As a result of my investigation, I have concluded the filtering software, ContentKeeper, does not utilize the Human Sexuality category to filter for pornography and sexually explicit material. As such, that category can be modified, and the District will remain compliant with CIPA and other state and federal laws concerning internet content and access. Therefore, I have determined that

the District will modify its filtering software to remove the Human Sexuality category within ContentKeeper for high schools. Further, the webpages you grieved about have been checked by our IT Department and are no longer blocked by the human sexuality filter.

As I am granting your request, I considered this complaint closed. Thank you for your participation in the process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Leslie Haack w/ permission". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Leslie Haack

Katy ISD

Deputy Superintendent