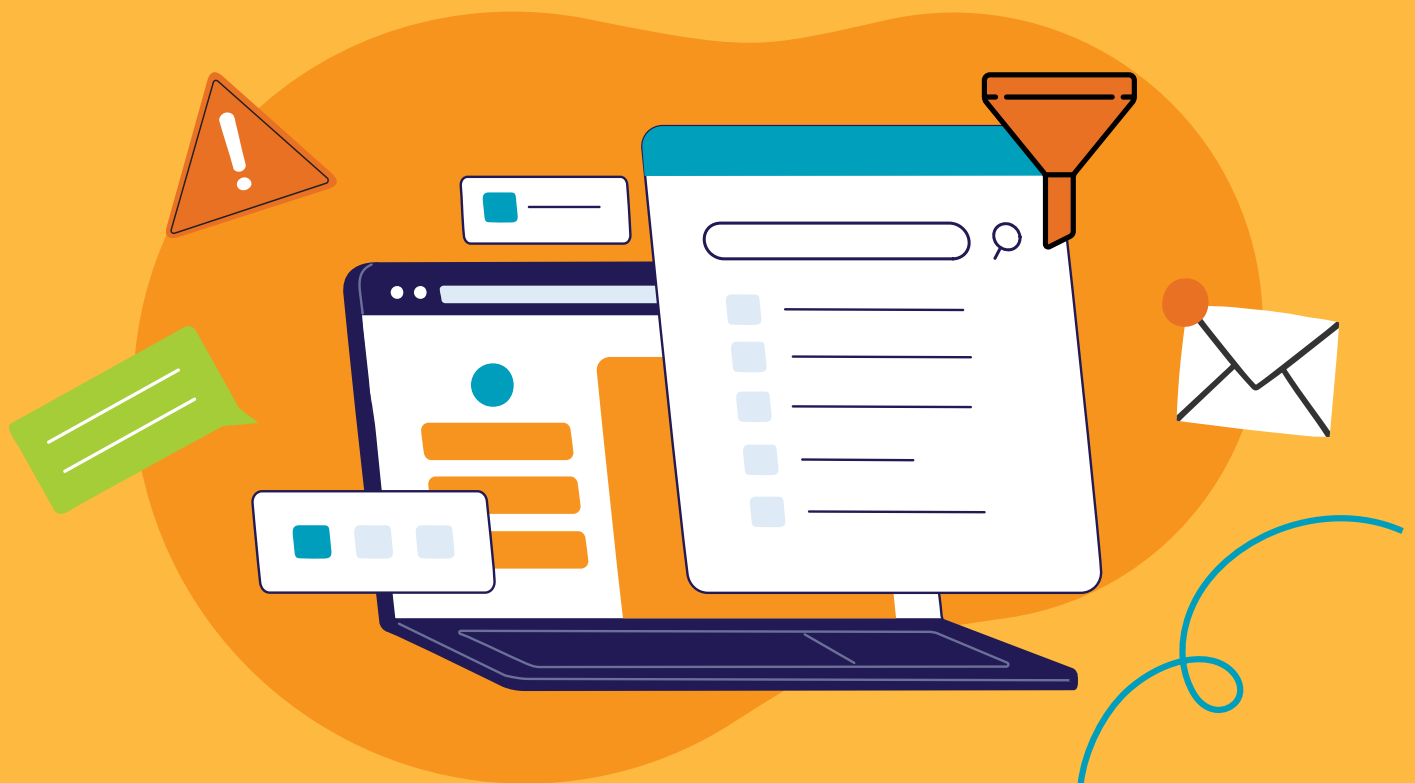




## WEB FILTER GUIDE FOR K-12 SCHOOLS

# Switching Web Filters: Why Now is the Time



### In this Guide:

Switching Web Filters: Why Now is the Time	2
The Strategic Decision: When to Make a Change?	3
Beyond Basic Filtering: Gaggle's Web Filter	3
The Process to Switch	4
Why Schools Are Finding the Switch Easier than Expected	5
The Costs of Waiting	5
Take the Next Step	5

# Switching Web Filters: Why Now is the Time

In today's digital learning environment, your web filtering solution should do more than just check a compliance box. Your web filter should effectively protect students while allowing access to valuable educational resources. Many districts continue using outdated filters that:

- ✗ Drain IT resources requiring ongoing staff involvement for maintenance
- ✗ Fall behind on security, especially as new websites and proxies emerge
- ✗ Stretch budgets with high costs
- ✗ Create unnecessary complexity for your team

## Old Web Filters

Require a person to manually add each and every site to the blocked list

Cost more

Require involvement and maintenance from the tech staff to ensure they are functioning correctly

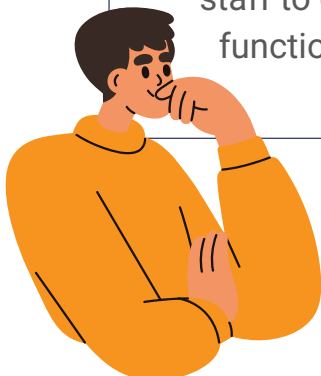
VS

## Gaggle's Web Filters

Technology scans sites students visit to block them in real time if they are harmful

Help your budget dollars go further





Allow you to filter by groups and apply time-based policies without having to routinely spend hours setting things up in the back end



# The Strategic Decision: When to Make a Change?

Despite the drawbacks of outdated filters, many districts resist change because it can be challenging to build consensus and to commit to something new. As decision strategist Annie Duke notes in her book *Quit*, knowing when to walk away is one of the most valuable yet underrated leadership skills.





**You might recognize these warning signs that it's time for a change:**

-  Growing frustration with tools
-  Continuous support tickets related to filtering issues
-  Time-consuming workarounds becoming normalized
-  Ever-expanding "block lists" that require constant attention

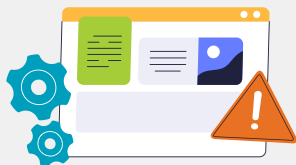
Staying with a solution that no longer serves your goals isn't loyalty, it's being stuck. Impactful tech leaders don't just add the right tools, they decide to strategically replace ineffective ones.

## Beyond Basic Filtering: Gaggle's Web Filter

**Switching to Gaggle's web filter provides immediate benefits:**

-  Dynamic AI-Powered technology that analyzes content in real time to keep you protected against new threats
-  Greater flexibility for policies so you can easily customize for your students
-  Flexible policy management for easy customization to your specific needs
-  Cost-effective solution that helps stretch your budget further

**Gaggle goes beyond traditional approaches with advanced AI that:**



Adapts to new online threats and evolving digital landscapes



Distinguishes between educational content and inappropriate material and categorizes sites



Continuously improves through machine learning

# The Process to Switch

## 1 Decide & Build Support

Look at your current landscape and evaluate whether any of the warning signs outlined above apply. Consider how much time and money your district could be saving while improving student safety. Build support in your district to make the change.

### Building Mindshare in Your District:

- ✓ **Share the Vision:** Communicate with stakeholders and share how a modern web filter aligns with district goals for both safety and educational access
- ✓ **Involve Key Players:** Include student safety, principals, and the broader IT team in early discussions to gain valuable perspectives and create champions
- ✓ **Present the ROI:** Document current pain points and quantify potential time and cost savings to help administration understand the tangible benefits
- ✓ **Address Concerns Proactively:** Prepare responses to common objections about changing systems and emphasize the lack of disruption to classroom activities

Discuss your specific school or district needs with the Gaggle team to get the process moving once internal alignment is achieved.

## 2 Implement

- ✓ **Import Existing Policies:** transfer any current policies you wish to keep, with a simple copy and paste.
- ✓ **Deploy** Roll out the solution across your school or district.

## 3 Review, Refine, and Rest Easy

Make any desired policy adjustments based on reports, knowing your students are protected from day one with CIPA-compliant default settings.

- ✓ **Gather Feedback:** Collect input from teachers and staff about their experience with the new system
- ✓ **Share Success Metrics:** Communicate improvements in both effectiveness and IT efficiency to reinforce the value of the change

# Why Schools Are Finding the Switch Easier than Expected

- + Ready Out of the Box:** Default policies ensure CIPA compliance from day one
- + Quick Implementation:** The entire process typically takes days, not months
- + No Additional Hardware Required:** Cloud-based deployment eliminates hardware costs
- + Minimal Disruption:** Students and teachers experience a seamless transition
- + Works With Your Existing Setup:** Compatible with various devices (Chromebooks, iPads, Windows laptops)
- + Integrates Seamlessly:** Works with Google Workspace for Education and Microsoft 365
- + Complete Support:** Gaggle's team provides implementation and technical assistance throughout the transition

## The Costs of Waiting

Every day with your current solution could mean:



More IT hours  
wasted on tedious  
filter management



Students exposed  
to less effective  
protection



Budget dollars  
spent on diminishing  
returns



Missed opportunities to  
invest in more effective  
student safety

The impact of exposure to harmful content is immediate, and prevention is always more effective than addressing harm after it occurs. It's time to prioritize both student safety and IT efficiency.

## Take the Next Step

Don't let the sunk cost fallacy keep you tied to an underperforming solution. Quitting your legacy web filter is choosing progress.

[Request a quote today!](#)

Discover how Gaggle's Web Filter can provide superior protection with less effort.

