

Date: October 5, 2018  
For ACTION \_\_\_\_\_  
For INFORMATION X\_\_\_\_  
Board Agenda: Yes \_\_\_  
No X\_\_\_

**FROM:** Dr. Elizabeth Hoover, Chief Technology Officer

**THROUGH:** Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr. Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

**TO:** The Honorable Ramee Gentry, Chair, and  
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

**TOPIC:** ACPS's New Internet Content Filter: Securly

**SUMMARY:**

ACPS has acquired Securly, a new internet content filter for student Chromebooks. An internet content filter is a technology that filters out unwanted categories of content while using the internet. These filters are required by Children's Online Privacy Protection Act and the Children's Internet Protection Act. Securly provides new features that were not available with our previous internet content filter.

**Parent Access**

In addition to filtering internet content on Chromebooks at school and home, Securly provides parents a portal for monitoring their child's online activity outside of school. Through an app, parents can:

- View accessed and blocked internet sites
- View keyword searches
- Increase controls over what students can do at home, such as restricting access to YouTube or other social media sites

Parents will also receive a weekly email summarizing their child's internet activity outside of school. Parents may choose to unsubscribe from this service.

In preparation for enabling the Securly parent portal for parents in grades four through twelve in November, Technology Services is working with other divisions that use it and piloting the portal with a small group of parents across the division. In addition, the department is presenting information on Securly to the following groups:

- School administrators
- Superintendent's Student Leadership Council
- Teacher Advisory Council
- PTA Council
- Parent liaisons

## **Detection of Cyberbullying, Self-harm and Potential Violence**

Securly detects internet activity related to cyberbullying, self-harm and potential violence and provides real-time reports to school and division administrators. In order to support schools with such data, Securly does the following:

- Provides 24/7 monitoring for schools
- Focuses attention on items that need immediate intervention
- Uses a threat assessment matrix to determine the risk and method of communication to schools
- Monitored by trained staff with backgrounds in psychology, sociology, criminology and experience with children

This resource is providing the division an additional tool to identify students in crisis. Dr. Crawford and her team in Student Services, and Jamie Bartlett, Director of Security, have been involved in creating protocols for necessary interventions. Already this year, Student Services and school administrators have followed up with families based on flagged internet searches and activity.

### **IMPACT:**

By acquiring Securly, the division is able to provide improved internet content filtering on student chromebooks, provide parents management tools for students' chromebooks, and enhance capabilities to identify students in crisis.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the attached information.

### **CONTACT:**

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