



May 9, 2011

VIA FAX TO 817-215-0170

VIA EMAIL TO agathings@nisdtx.org

Northwest Independent School District
Attn: America Gathings, Communications Department
P.O. Box 77070
Ft. Worth, Texas 76177-0070

RE: Public Information Act Request

Dear Ms. Gathings:

We write on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Foundation of Texas. The ACLU works daily in courts, legislatures and communities across Texas to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed to every person in this country by the Constitution and laws of the United States.

We write to request, under the Texas Public Information Act, Texas Government Code Ch. 552, the following information¹ maintained by the Northwest Independent School District and its officers, employees, and agents (“the District”):

1. All information regarding the District’s use of internet filtering software to block websites that fall into the category of “Homosexuality,” “LGBT,” “Gay or Lesbian or Bisexual Interest,” “Alternative Lifestyles,” “Social Issues,” or any similar category at high schools in the District;
2. All information regarding the District’s use of internet filter software to block the following websites:
 - a. Day of Silence: <http://dayofsilence.org>
 - b. The Trevor Project: <http://thetrevorproject.org/>
 - c. GSA Network: <http://gsanetwork.org/>
 - d. Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network: <http://glsen.org/>
 - e. The It Gets Better Project: <http://www.itgetsbetter.org/>

¹ The term “information” as used herein includes all records or communications in written or electronic form, including but not limited to correspondence, documents, data, videotapes, audio tapes, emails, faxes, telephone messages, logs, files, guidance, guidelines, evaluations, instructions, analyses, memoranda, agreements, notes, orders, policies, procedures, protocols, reports, rules, training manuals, other manuals, or studies.

3. All information regarding any request to block or unblock specific websites and the resolution of such requests;
4. All information regarding which categories of websites were selected to be blocked pursuant to the default configuration of the internet filtering software (i.e. the configuration in place at the time the software was initially installed);
5. All information regarding which categories of websites were selected to be blocked by the District;
6. All information regarding who made the decision to activate the filter for "Homosexuality," "LGBT," "Gay or Lesbian or Bisexual Interest," "Alternative Lifestyles," "Social Issues," or any similar filter category, when the decision was made, and any communications concerning that decision;
7. All information regarding the internet filtering provider(s)' knowledge that the filter for "Homosexuality," "LGBT," "Gay or Lesbian or Bisexual Interest," "Alternative Lifestyles," "Social Issues," or any similar filter category had been (or would be) enabled on the District's internet filtering software;
8. Communications between the internet filtering provider(s) and any representative or agent of the District concerning which categories of websites had been (or would be) blocked; and
9. Contracts and agreements, including service and maintenance agreements, between the internet filtering provider(s) and any representative or agent of the District.

We agree that all student-identifying information may be redacted from materials responsive to the requests above. We would appreciate the requested materials at your earliest convenience. Materials may be sent by e-mail to MQuintoPozos@aclutx.org, by fax to (512) 478-7303, or by mail to P.O. Box 12905, Austin, TX 78711. We are willing to pay the statutory fee for copying these materials. If the fee exceeds \$40.00, please provide the written estimate of costs via fax or email. Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Sincerely,



Manuel Quinto-Pozos
Staff Attorney
ACLU Foundation of Texas
P.O. Box 12905
Austin, Texas 78711

TRANSMISSION VERIFICATION REPORT

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