



# The Gaggle

Bringing You a Gaggle of News Monthly

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## Minimizing Blocked Messages

Gaggle has multiple systems in place to keep students safe while using email and other features like our blogs and message boards. All of these filters are controlled by teachers or administrators at your school, and can be customized to your specific needs. Because the blocking of messages or other Gaggle activities results in rerouting to the teacher or administrator for review, we try to balance our focus on student safety with our desire to make administration easy. So here are some tips to help minimize the number of false positives coming to your account for review.

The Blocked Word List you choose to subscribe to will largely determine the number of blocked messages you may receive. There are three regularly updated lists: Strict, Standard and Permissive. Our lists include curse words, sexual references, and drug references. You can then customize your own school by either adding words not on our subscription list, or by overriding some of our words. For example, if you subscribe to our Strict List, and a class is doing a project on the environment, you find many assignments containing the word "acid" being blocked.

You can override that blocked word on your Custom List temporarily to avoid this issue.

The Anti-Pornography Scanner is highly sensitive and will catch images that are acceptable and need to be unblocked. Our philosophy is better safe than sorry, but the scanner's sensitivity level can be adjusted to a lower level should you find it is blocking too many messages or Digital Locker files. The setting is called Image Filter Sensitivity, and is found on your School Setup Page. Please note that turning off the APS completely could result in your school no longer being CIPA compliant, so we recommend against this.

Student safety is Gaggle's number one priority, but we are always available to help you customize your settings to meet your needs and keep teacher's administration duties reasonable.



## Digital Lockers

Soon, Gaggle will offer a new way to filter your students' Digital Locker files. In Gaggle, the files that get blocked will be able to be set to Notification. What this does is send the administrator of the student a notice that there may be something inappropriate in that student's locker. However, the file will not be blocked. It will stay in the student's locker and be accessible unless the administrator goes in and deletes the file.

If the Digital Locker filter is set to Normal, the files will be treated the same as they always have. If there is something questionable uploaded into a locker, the administrator will be sent a message. They can then unblock the file or delete it.

Another possible setting is to turn the filtering for the Digital Lockers completely off. This will allow all files to be uploaded without going through all the settings that Gaggle has in place.

## Curriculum Corner

If you are receiving a lot of false positives in regards to your Blocked Word List, you may want to allow some words to get through the filter. If your students are doing a science project on skeletons, the word crack may appear in reference to bones. This word is on our Strict List. In order to allow this word to bypass the filter, go to the School Setup page and locate the Blocked Words tab at the bottom of the screen. Type (a)crack in the Custom Word List box and click save. This will allow the word crack. Follow the same procedure for any words you want to bypass the filter.

***Please don't hesitate to contact Gaggle's Customer Service staff if you have any questions!***  
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