The
Intentional
Tech Coalition

CONCORD

Connected by choice

Internet Consent on School Devices

A Concord K-8 Parent Guide

When to use this guide

Use this guide if the protections currently on your child's school-issued iPad/MacBook don't feel like enough to keep them safe online. Each year, Concord Public Schools asks families to consent to internet use through a checkbox in Aspen. You may uncheck the box (it is checked by default) and tell your teacher(s) and principal what would need to be in place for you to check it.

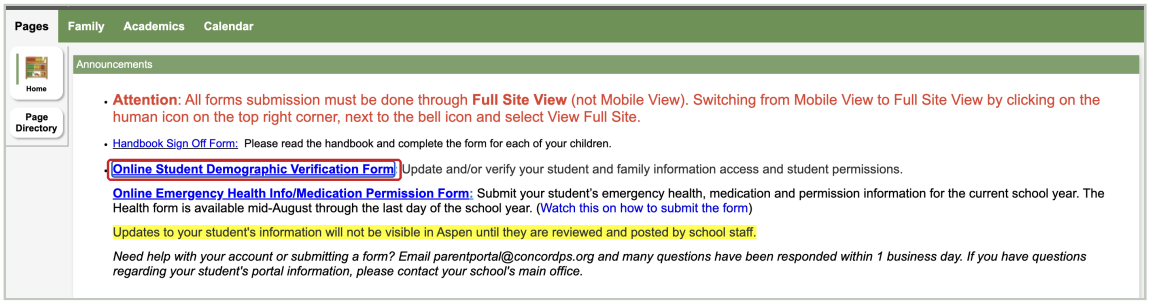
This is a request, not a refusal. We know our teachers and IT staff care deeply about our students, and we recognize that meeting these requests takes meaningful time and work. The goal is a clear, respectful way for families to ask for guardrails, and a way for the district to see which protections parents value most. When enough families ask for the same protections, they may become the default for every student.

> This guide is for Concord Public Schools families in grades K-8.

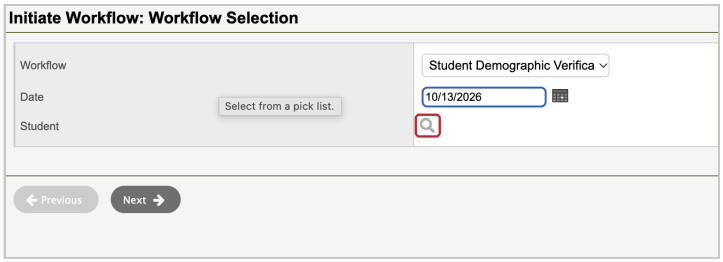
How to withhold consent in Aspen

Use a computer, not your phone. Aspen forms only submit in Full Site View.

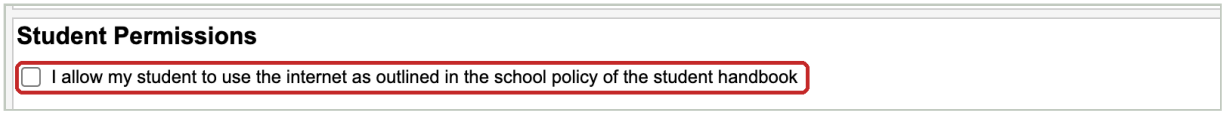
1. Log in to Aspen. On the **Pages** tab, under Announcements, click **Online Student Demographic Verification Form**.



2. Click the **magnifying glass** next to Student, choose your child from the list, and click **Next**.



3. Continue through the form to **Student Permissions**. Uncheck the first box, "I allow my student to use the internet as outlined in the school policy of the student handbook." Complete the other permissions as you choose, check the Legal Acknowledgement box, and click **Finish**.



4. Email your principal and teacher(s) the same day using one of the templates in this guide. Unchecking the box may not prompt anyone to follow up, and changes don't appear in Aspen until school staff review them. Your email is what starts the conversation.

   Repeat steps 1 to 3 for each child.

A note on the Handbook Sign Off Form

The Handbook Sign Off Form sits just above the Demographic Verification link in Aspen. The handbook may include the district's technology Acceptable Use Policy, so signing it could count as internet consent. If you haven't signed it yet, consider holding off until you receive a response to your email, and mention in your email that you're doing so.

Choose your level

Pick the level that fits your family, then send the matching email. Each level builds on the one before it. Level 1 is a good starting point if you aren't sure what you need yet.

Request	Level 1 Help me understand first	Level 2 Core protections	Level 3 Full protections
Please share with me			
A list of the apps, platforms, and websites my child uses, and what each is for	✓	✓	✓
For each one: what data it collects and what happens with that data after collection; whether it uses persuasive design features such as badges, streaks, or leaderboards; and whether the school is abiding by a minimum use clause	✓	✓	✓
Which content filter the school uses, and whether it works off school Wi-Fi	✓	✓	✓
Whether any student-facing AI tools or features are turned on for my child's account	✓	✓	✓
Please put in place			
Allowlist browsing: approved sites only, rather than open internet with blocked sites		✓	✓
Google Additional Services (such as YouTube and Maps) turned off for my child's account		✓	✓
Student-facing AI chatbots and AI features turned off for my child		✓	✓
YouTube, games, and chat features blocked or restricted			✓
Camera and microphone off by default			✓
Filtering that stays on when the device is used outside school			✓

Also consider

These go beyond internet settings, but you can add any of them to your email:

- The device stays at school rather than coming home (Grades 6-8)
- An equal paper option for homework, with no homework that requires the internet
- No device use at recess, lunch, or other non-instructional time
- For children in K-2, no internet access and no device at all

Sending your email

Send to your principal, and copy your child's teacher(s) and the district's IT specialist. Keep a copy and note the date you sent it. Delete the handbook sentence if you've already signed.

Many parents also offer practical help, such as printing materials or providing classroom books and other analog materials. Each template includes that offer, so adjust it to what you can give.

Email templates

Level 1: Help me understand first

Subject: Internet consent for [child's name], grade [grade]

Dear [Principal's name] and [Teacher's name],

I'm the parent of [child's name], a [grade] grader at [school]. I've unchecked the internet consent box on this year's Demographic Verification Form in Aspen, and I wanted to let you know why.

I'd like my consent to be informed, the same way it would be for any other decision about my child's health and safety. Before I check the box, could you please share:

- A list of the apps, platforms, and websites [child's name] uses for school, and what each is for. For each one:
  - What data it collects, and what happens with that data after collection
  - Whether it uses persuasive design features such as badges, streaks, or leaderboards
  - Whether the school is abiding by a minimum use clause
- Which content filter the school uses, and whether it works off school Wi-Fi
- Whether any student-facing AI tools or features are turned on for [child's name]'s account

I'm also holding off on the Handbook Sign Off Form until we've connected. I know this takes time and effort on your end, and I'm grateful for it. I'd be glad to support any work needed to accommodate this request, such as printing materials or providing books and other analog materials for the classroom. I'm happy to talk anytime.

Warmly,
[Your name, phone, email]

Level 2: Core protections

Subject: Internet consent for [child's name], grade [grade]

Dear [Principal's name] and [Teacher's name],

I'm the parent of [child's name], a [grade] grader at [school]. I've unchecked the internet consent box on this year's Demographic Verification Form in Aspen, and I wanted to let you know why.

I want to support [child's name]'s use of school technology for learning, and I'd like a few protections in place first. I'd be happy to check the box once these are set for [child's name]'s account:

- Allowlist browsing, so only approved sites are reachable
- Google Additional Services, such as YouTube and Maps, turned off
- Student-facing AI chatbots and AI features turned off

Could you also share a list of the apps, platforms, and websites [child's name] uses and, for each one, what data it collects and what happens with that data, whether it uses persuasive design features such as badges, streaks, or leaderboards, and whether the school is abiding by a minimum use clause? I'd also like to know which content filter the school uses, whether it works off school Wi-Fi, and whether any student-facing AI features are turned on.

I'm also holding off on the Handbook Sign Off Form until we've connected. I know these requests take real work, and I appreciate it. I'd be glad to support any work needed to accommodate them, such as printing materials or providing books and other analog materials for the classroom. Please let me know which of these are already in place and how we can arrange the rest. I'm happy to talk anytime.

Warmly,
[Your name, phone, email]

Level 3: Full protections

Subject: Internet consent for [child's name], grade [grade]

Dear [Principal's name] and [Teacher's name],

I'm the parent of [child's name], a [grade] grader at [school]. I've unchecked the internet consent box on this year's Demographic Verification Form in Aspen, and I wanted to let you know why.

I want to support [child's name]'s use of school technology for learning, and I'd like specific protections in place first. I'd be happy to check the box once these are set for [child's name]'s account:

- Allowlist browsing, so only approved sites are reachable
- Google Additional Services, such as YouTube and Maps, turned off
- Student-facing AI chatbots and AI features turned off
- YouTube, games, and chat features blocked or restricted
- Camera and microphone off by default
- Filtering that stays on when the device is used outside school

Could you also share a list of the apps, platforms, and websites [child's name] uses and, for each one, what data it collects and what happens with that data, whether it uses persuasive design features such as badges, streaks, or leaderboards, and whether the school is abiding by a minimum use clause? I'd also like to know which content filter the school uses and whether any student-facing AI features are turned on.

I'm also holding off on the Handbook Sign Off Form until we've connected. I know these requests take real work, and I appreciate it. I'd be glad to support any work needed to accommodate them, such as printing materials or providing books and other analog materials for the classroom. Please let me know which of these are already in place and how we can arrange the rest. I'm happy to talk anytime.

Warmly,
[Your name, phone, email]

After you send

Stay friendly and specific. If you hear that every student has to use a device, you can say you aren't refusing learning, only asking for specific protections while your child uses it. If you hear that settings can't be customized for one student, you can ask whether these protections could become the default for every student.

Share this guide with other families in your child's class. When many families ask for the same protections, the district can see clearly what parents value. Learn more at intentionaltechcoalition.org.

Adapted with thanks from Turning Life On's "Your Consent Counts." This guide is not legal advice.