

Blocksi - Filtering Policies and Assessment Mode

Today we will be looking at Blocksi again. This time, we will look into how to create filtering policies and how to assign them to your classes.

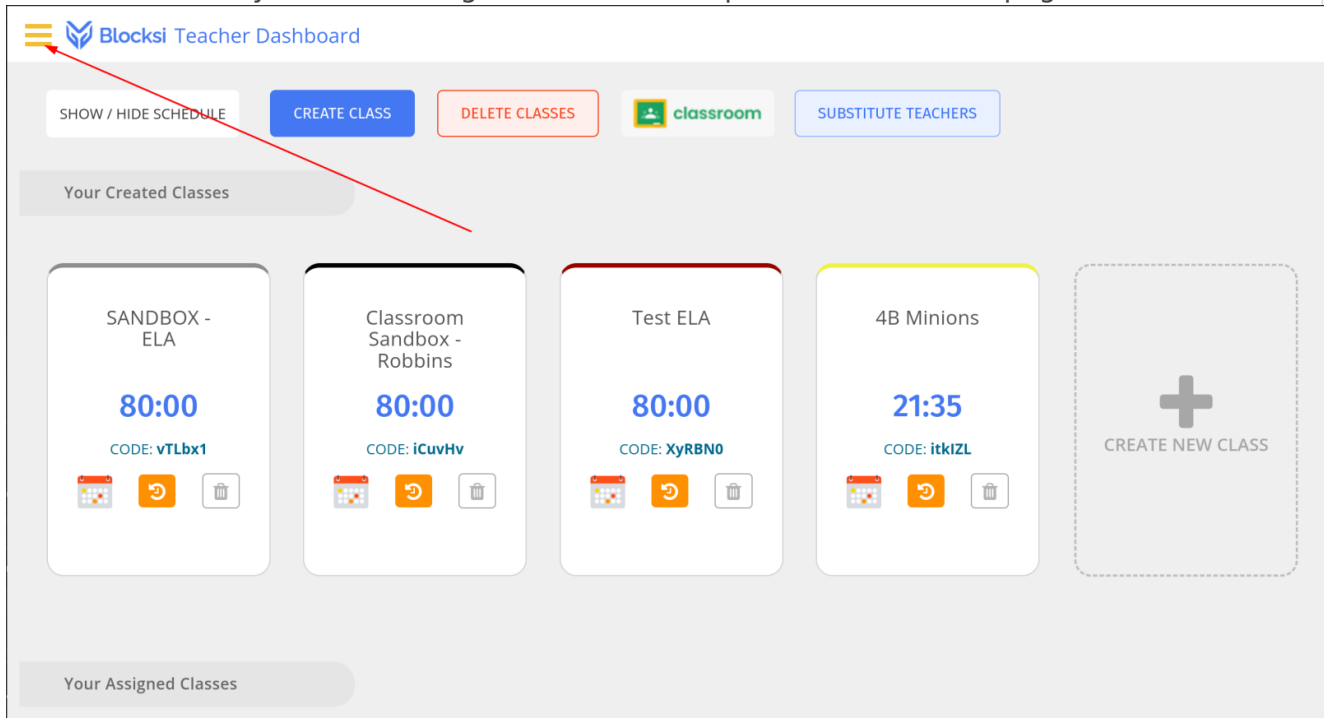
First, it is important to understand that filtering is basically the act of blocking specific parts of the internet. Any time you block something, it might cause unintended consequences. This isn't a huge problem, but it is something to keep in mind. If you enable your filter, and then something stops working for the kids, there is a good chance you need to exempt something.

Now... Let's get started!

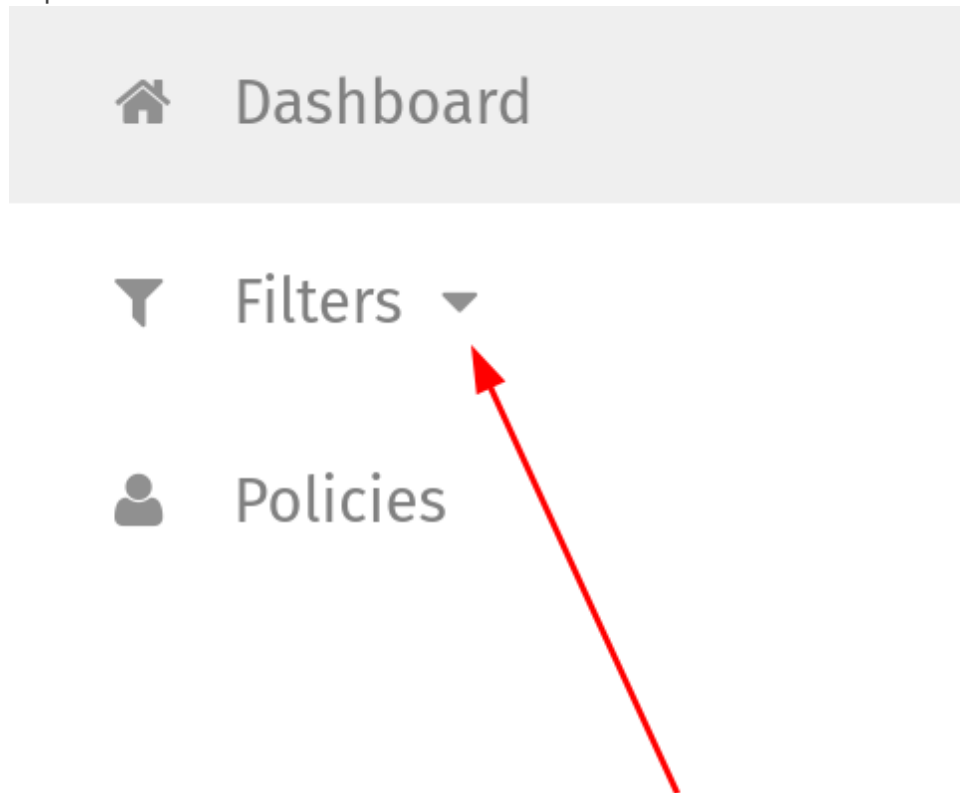
Creating the Filters

Click here for instructions.

1. Click on the little yellow hamburger menu at the top left of the Blocksi page.



2. This will present you with you filtering menu. Go ahead and click on “Filters” to expand it.



3. This opens the menu to include several options. We will go through each of them for our class filtering.

 Dashboard

 Filters ▼

Web Filter

Exception Lists

Keyword Filter

Application Filter

YouTube Filters ▼

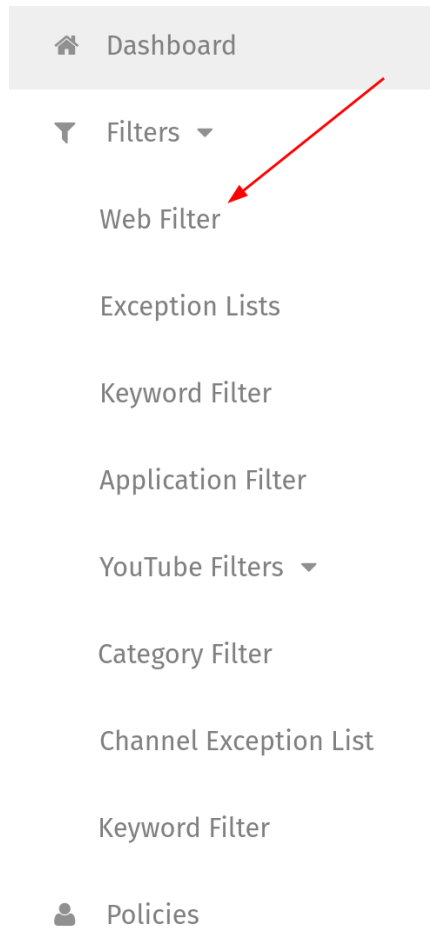
Category Filter

Channel Exception List

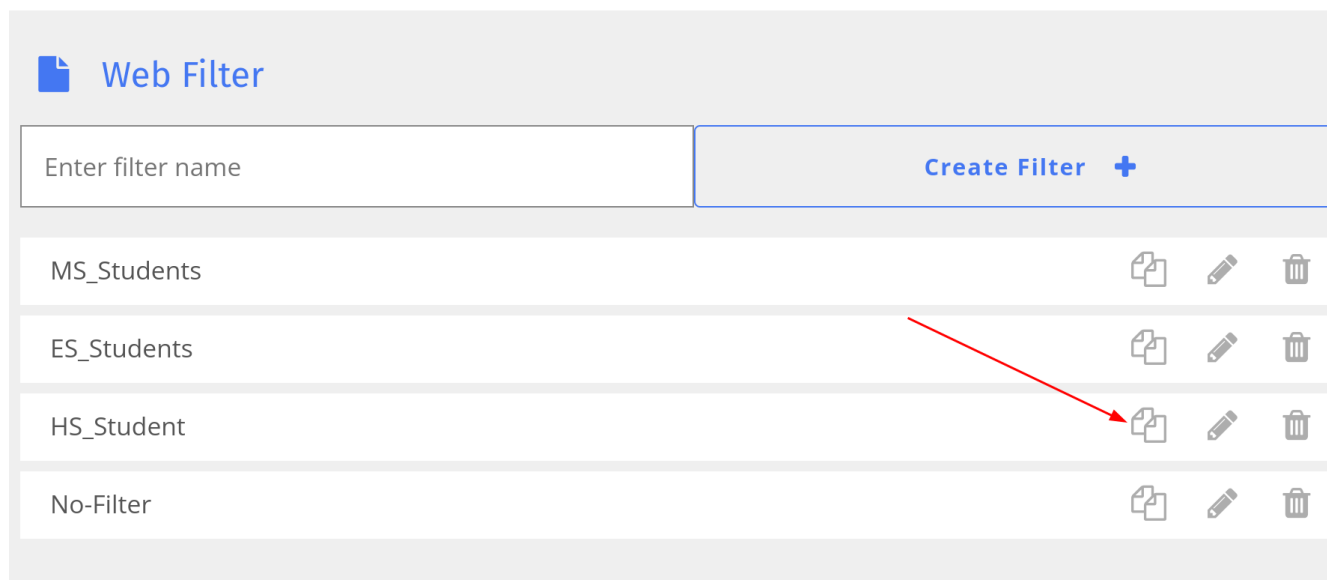
Keyword Filter

 Policies

4. Click on “Web Filter.”



5. While not required, I recommend you pick XS_Student as a starting point. Click on the little copy icon to duplicate the filter instead of starting from scratch.



6. Enter a name (I’m using “My Classroom” for all of the names to make things less confusing), then click on OK.

Duplicate filter

Please choose a different name:

OK

Close

7. This will add “My Classroom” (or whatever you name it) to the web filter list. We will click on the pencil icon to edit the filter.



Web Filter

Create Filter +

MS_Students			
ES_Students			
HS_Student			
No-Filter			
My Classroom			

8. This page shows all of the various categories that Blocks puts sites in. At the top, you can put in a web address, and Blocks will tell you the category. Handy if you aren't sure which category niggles you...

Edit My Classroom

Web Filter / My Classroom

Website Rating Tool

[Security Risk](#)

⚙ Custom

Unethical

🚫 Blocked

Adult/Mature Content

🚫 Blocked

Bandwidth Consuming

⚙ Custom

Business

✅ Allowed

Personal

⚙ Custom

Unrated

✅ Allowed

Save Changes 

9. To edit the web filter, click on a category.

Edit My Classroom

Web Filter / My Classroom

Website Rating Tool

Enter URL

GET CATEGORY

Security Risk

⚙ Custom

Unethical

🚫 Blocked

Adult/Mature Content

🚫 Blocked

Bandwidth Consuming

⚙ Custom

Business

✅ Allowed

Personal

⚙ Custom

Unrated

✅ Allowed

Save Changes 

10. This will expand the category to show the sub-categories.

[Personal](#) Custom

	✓	⊘	⚠
All	☒	☐	☐
Advertising	☒	☐	☐
Brokerage and Trading	☒	☐	☐
Games	☒	☐	☐
Web-based Email	☒	☐	☐
Entertainment	☒	☐	☐
Arts and Culture	☒	☐	☐
Education	☒	☐	☐
Health and Wellness	☒	☐	☐
Job Search	☒	☐	☐
Medicine	☒	☐	☐
News and Media	☒	☐	☐
Social Networking	☐	☒	☐
Political Organizations	☒	☐	☐
Reference	☒	☐	☐
Global Religion	☒	☐	☐

11. If you want to block something that isn't blocked, activate the center square. If you want to allow something that is blocked (be careful, we blocked things for a reason), activate the left square. If you want to warn people when they visit a page, but you still want the student to be able to visit, click the right square.

	✓	⊘	⚠
All	☒	☐	☐
Advertising	☒	☐	☐
Brokerage and Trading	☒	☐	☐
Games	☐	☒	☐
Web-based Email	☒	☐	☐

12. Once you have edited all of the categories to your satisfaction (you can always edit them again later), click the “Save Changes” button.

Edit My Classroom

Web Filter / My Classroom

Website Rating Tool

GET CATEGORY

Security Risk Custom

Unethical Blocked

Adult/Mature Content Blocked

Bandwidth Consuming Custom

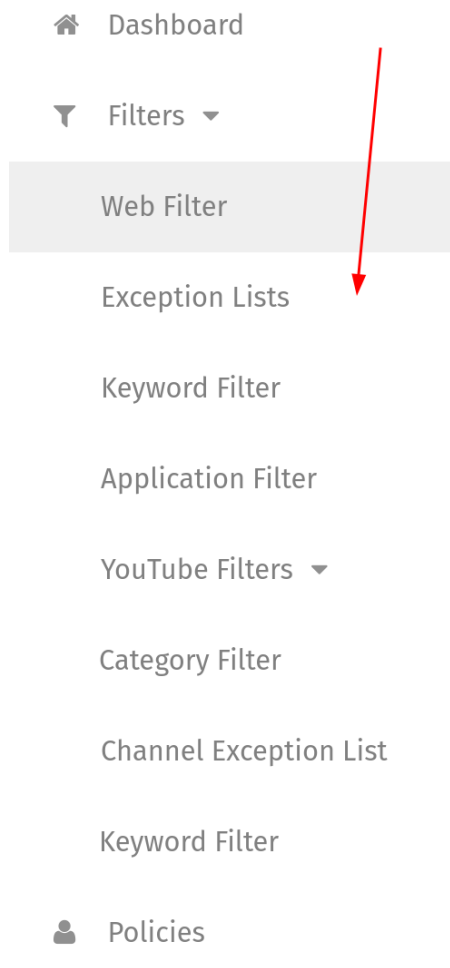
Business Allowed

Personal Custom

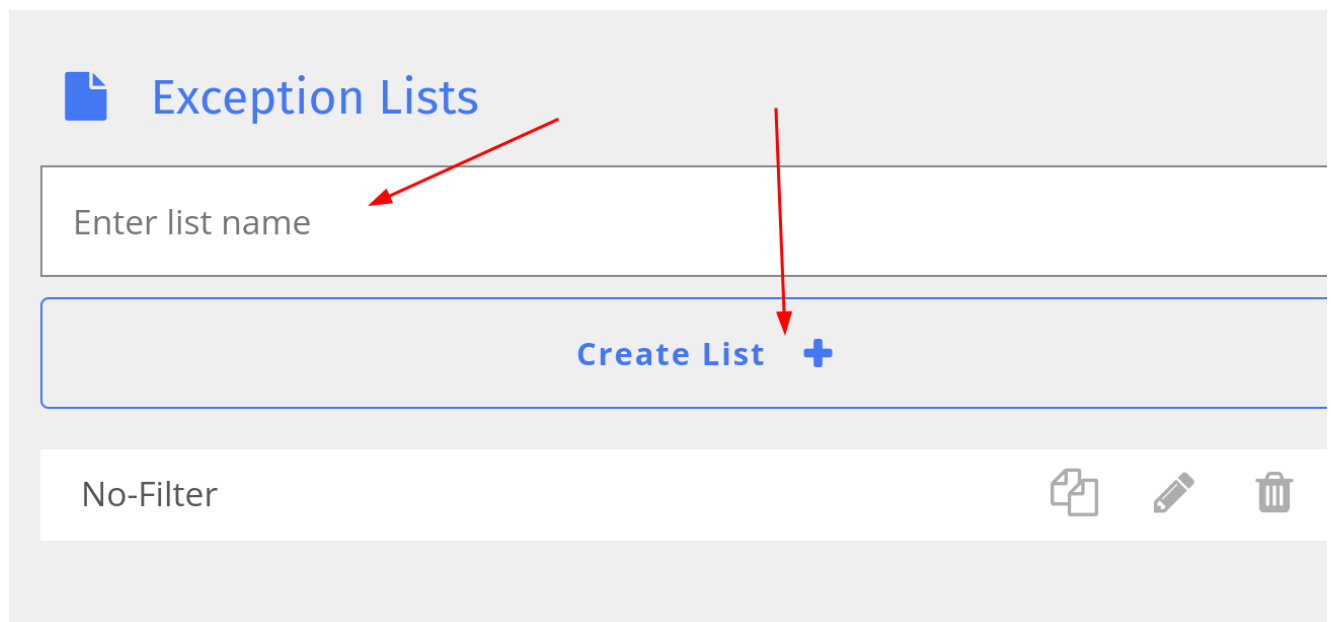
Unrated Allowed

Save Changes

13. In our menu, let's click on "Exception Lists"



14. Enter a name (I used My Classroom again), then click "Create List."



15. This opens the list editor. This list is both an allow and a block list. If you blocked a category in step 11, but you need a site that is in that category, you can paste that

site in the “Enter URL” box, be sure that the “Allow” option is selected, then click on the “Add to List” button. Likewise, if you DON’T have a category blocked, you can enter a site in the box, choose the Block button, then click on “Add to List” to prevent access to that website.



Edit My Classroom

Exception List / My Classroom

Enter URL

Allow

Block

Add to List +

Examples of use:

- www.blocksi.net
- blocksi.net
- www.blocksi.net/chromebook-filtering
- blocksi.net/chromebook-filtering

16. Once you add an item to the list, it will be listed at the bottom. You can see the site, edit it, toggle between allow/block, update your settings, or delete anything you add.

Edit My Classroom

Exception List / My Classroom

Allow

Block

Add to List +

Examples of use:

- www.blocksi.net
- blocksi.net
- www.blocksi.net/chromebook-filtering
- blocksi.net/chromebook-filtering

 coolmathgames.com



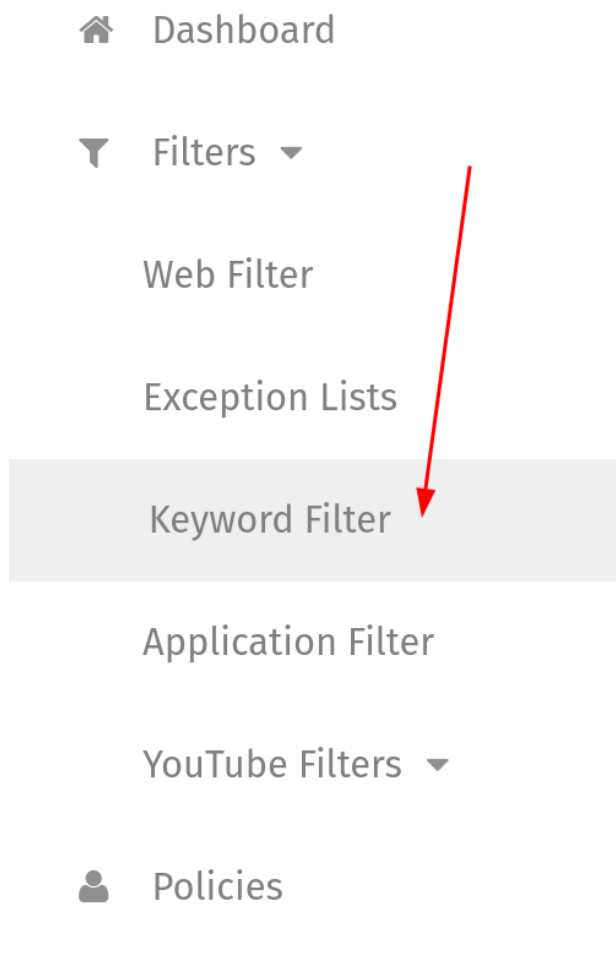
 Allow

 Block

 Update

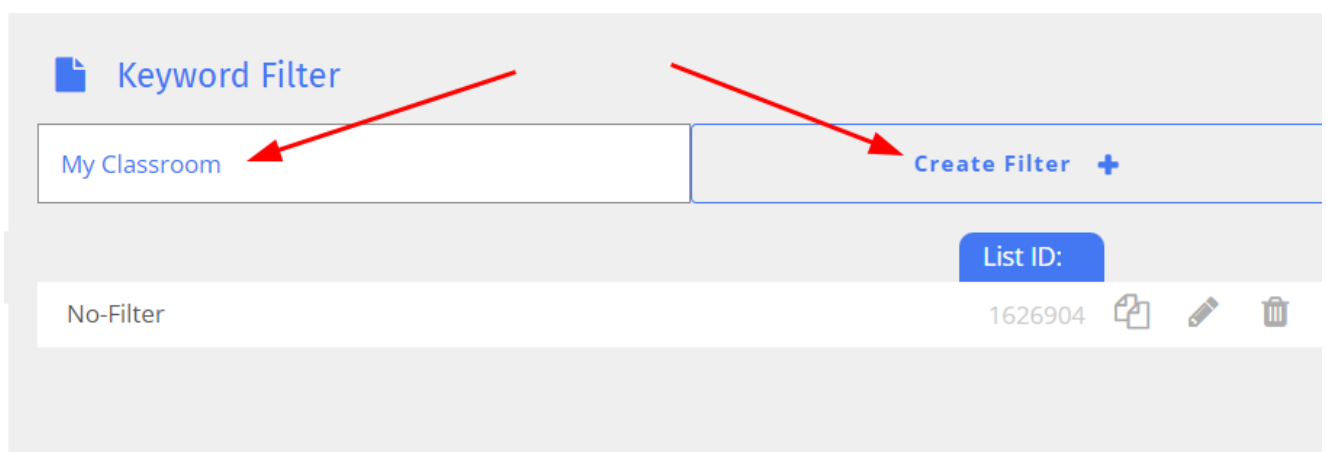


17. Let's go to "Keyword Filter" in our menu.



18. Keywords allow us to block websites that have certain words in them. You must be careful with this. It might seem like a good idea to block the word "naked," but doing so also blocks any website with the phrase "naked truth." Enter a name and then click "Create Filter."

 Blocks Teacher Dashboard



19. Enter the first word you want to block (must be at least 4 characters long), then click on "Add Keyword." Side note... "guns" could also block a LOT of legitimate resources as well.

Edit My Classroom

Keyword Filter / My Classroom (4f5ed321)

guns

Add Keyword +

20. Let's go to the "Application Filter" now.

 Dashboard

 Filters ▾

Web Filter

Exception Lists

Keyword Filter

Application Filter

YouTube Filters ▾

 Policies

21. Enter a name, then click "Create Filter."

Application Filter

Create Filter +

HS_Applications			
ES_Applications			
MS_Applications			
No-Filter			

22. Click on the little pencil to edit the Application Filter you just added.

Application Filter

Create Filter +

HS_Applications			
ES_Applications			
MS_Applications			
No-Filter			
My Classroom			

23. The following page shows the main Google apps. You can turn off any of these that you choose, but think about each option carefully. It is possible that you have a class where it isn't at all helpful to have access to email. If that is true, Block Gmail. You may also choose to block YouTube, but this is more aggressive than blocking YouTube in our Exception Lists. It MIGHT work, and there is no harm in trying.

Edit My Classroom

Application Filter / My Classroom

	YouTube	Allow	Block	Update
	Google Docs	Allow	Block	Update
	Google Drive	Allow	Block	Update
	Gmail	Allow	Block	Update
	Google Classroom	Allow	Block	Update

24. To block an item, click on “Block,” then click on “Update.”

Edit My Classroom

Application Filter / My Classroom

	YouTube	Allow	Block	Update
	Google Docs	Allow	Block	Update
	Google Drive	Allow	Block	Update
	Gmail	Allow	Block	Update
	Google Classroom	Allow	Block	Update

25. On to the YouTube Filters! Click on the menu item to expand it.

 Dashboard

 Filters ▾

Web Filter

Exception Lists

Keyword Filter

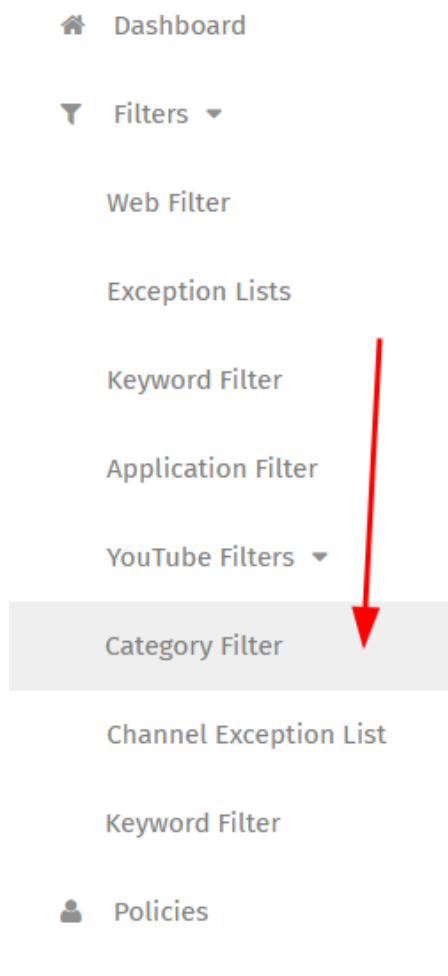
Application Filter

YouTube Filters ▾

 Policies

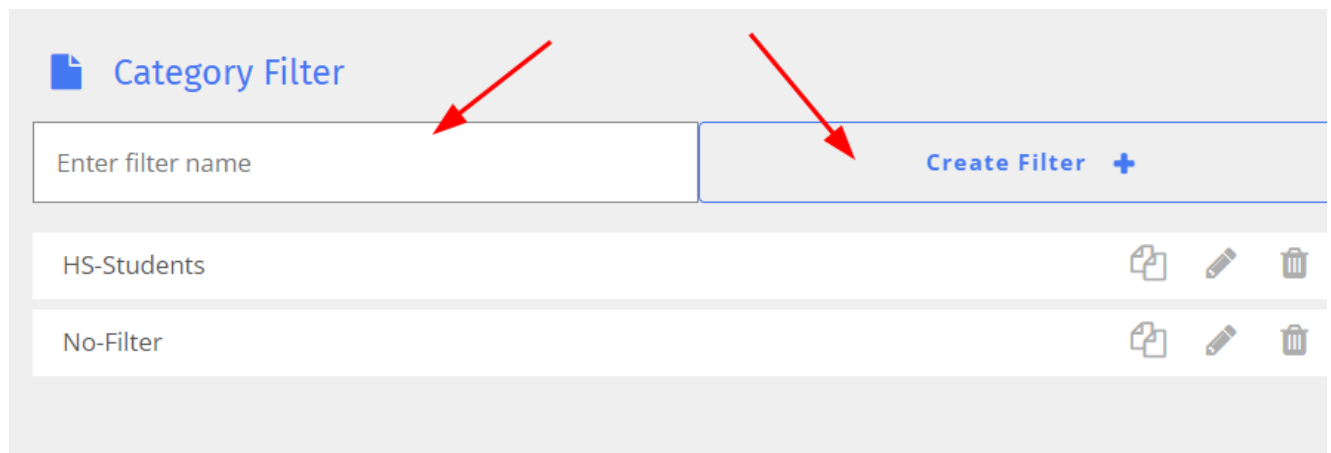


26. We will start with the “Category Filter.”



27. As should now be familiar, enter a name, then click “Create Filter.”

 Blocks! Teacher Dashboard



28. Click the pencil icon on the filter you just added.

Category Filter

Create Filter 

HS-Students



No-Filter



My Classroom



29. This will bring up EVERY category within YouTube.

Edit My Classroom

Category Filter / My Classroom

Save Changes

YouTube category

All

Film and Animation

Autos and Vehicles

Music

Pets and Animals

Sports

Short Movies

Travel and Events

Gaming

Videoblogging (vlogging)

People and Blogs

Comedy

Entertainment

News and Politics



30. Allow (left box) or block (right box) any categories of videos you want to work when students are within your room. You could effectively block YouTube by clicking every box, then you can use step 36 to allow access to only your videos and those of channels you trust.

People and Blogs	☒	☐
Comedy	☐	☒
Entertainment	☐	☒
News and Politics	☒	☐
How to and Style	☒	☐
Education	☒	☐
Science and Technology	☒	☐
Nonprofits and Activism	☒	☐
Movies	☐	☒
Anime/Animation	☐	☒
Action/Adventure	☐	☒
Classics	☐	☒
Documentary	☒	☐
Drama	☒	☐
Family	☒	☐
Foreign	☒	☐
Horror	☒	☐
Sci-Fi/Fantasy	☒	☐

31. When you are finished, go to the top, and click the “Save Changes” button.

Edit My Classroom

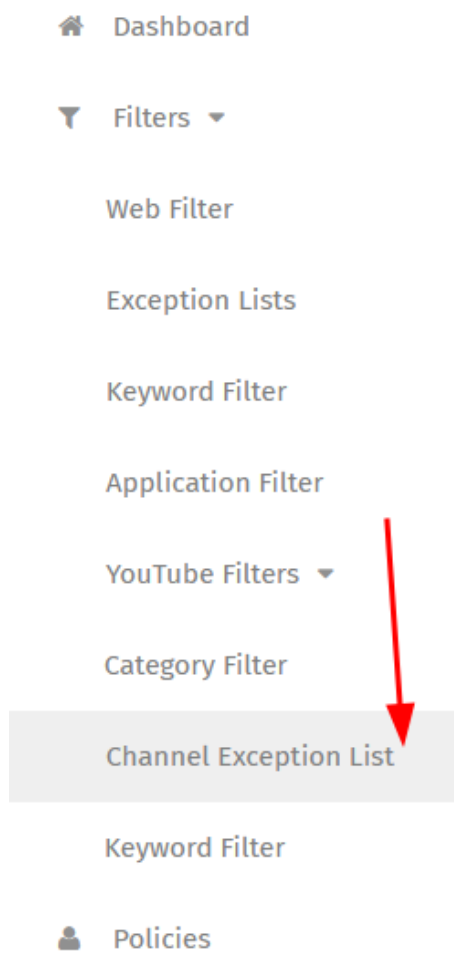
Category Filter / My Classroom

Save Changes

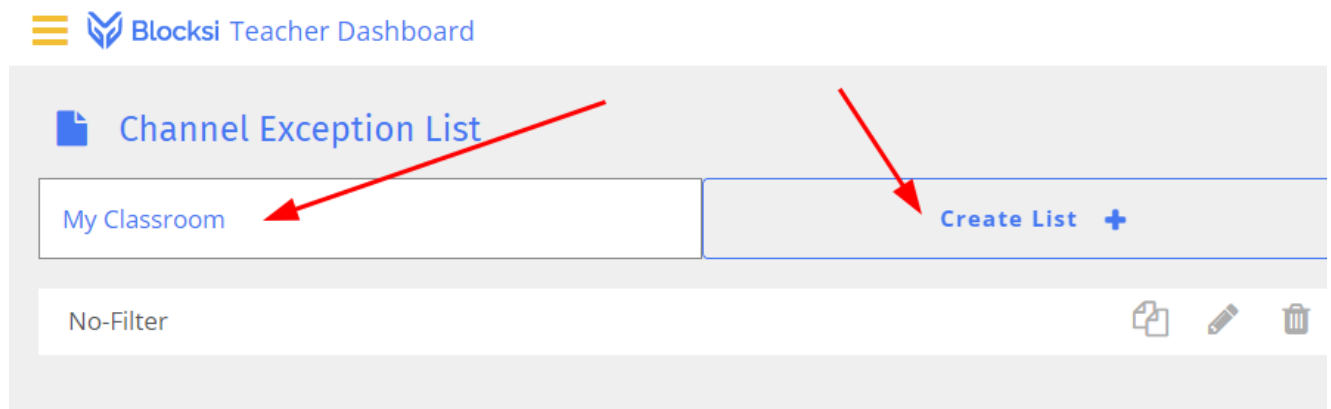
YouTube category

All

32. Go to the “Channel Exception List.”



33. Enter a name and create your list.



34. Click the pencil tool for your list.

Channel Exception List

Enter list name

Create List +

No-Filter



My Classroom



35. This method allows any video within a chosen channel to be accessible. For this example, I included my channel address. I've made sure to choose the "Allow" option, and then I hit "Add to List. I can also use the same method to block an entire channel if I use the "Block" box.

Edit My Classroom

Channel Exception List / My Classroom

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjps-HSc2xov2qYA7R49hgg>

NOTE: Please enter the exact name (case sensitive) or complete URL of the channel.

Allow

Block

Add to List +

36. Blocks looks up my Channel name and lists it below.

Edit My Classroom

Channel Exception List / My Classroom

Youtube channel

Allow

Block

Add to List +

NOTE: Please enter the exact name (case sensitive) or complete URL of the channel.

Cory Robbins

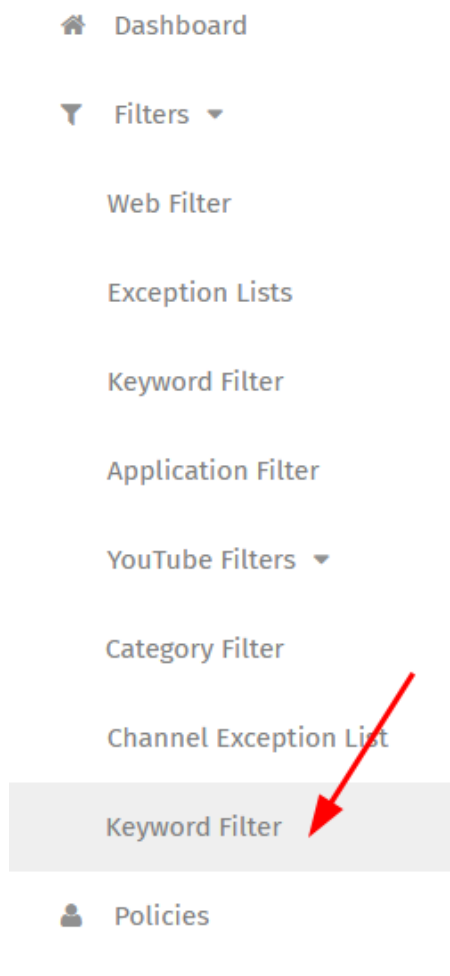
Allow

Block

Update

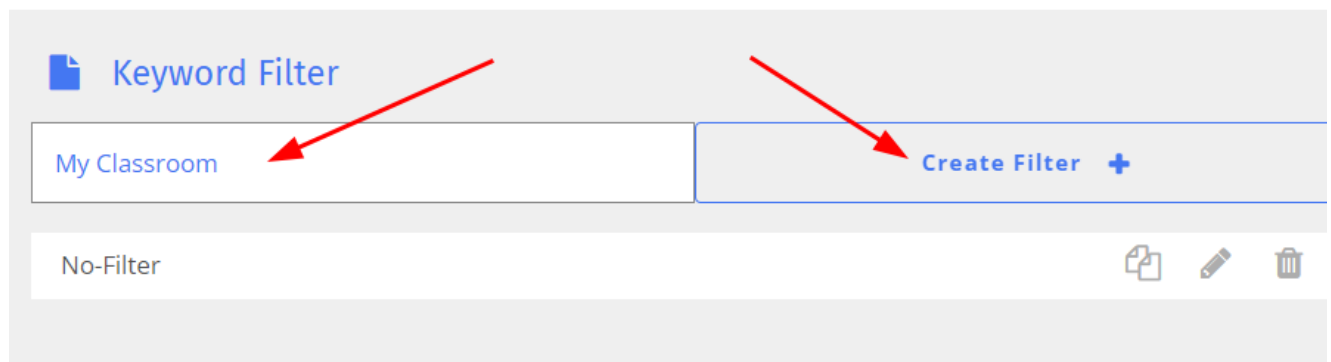


37. Go to the “Keyword Filter” item under “YouTube Filters.”



38. Enter a name, and click “Create Filter.”

 [Blocks! Teacher Dashboard](#)



39. Edit the list with the pencil tool.

Keyword Filter

Create Filter +

My Classroom	  
No-Filter	  

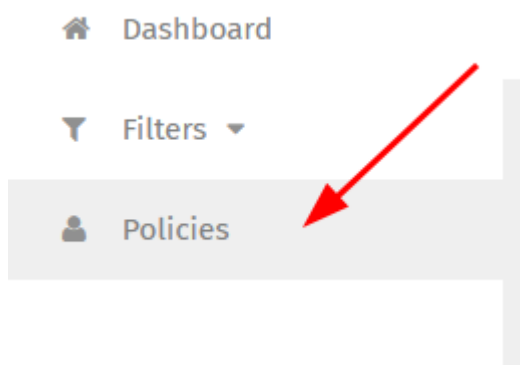
40. This filter is similar to the previous “Keyword Filter” option. It will block the ability to search for these words within YouTube. Be cautious, but enter the word of your choice, then “Add Keyword.”

Edit My Classroom

Keyword Filter / My Classroom

Add Keyword +

41. Click on “Policies” in the menu.



42. Enter a name in the top left, then click “Create Plicy.”

Policies

My Classroom

Create Policy +

Policy Table

Policy	Policy Type	Web Filter	Exception List	Keyword Filter	Application Filter	YouTube Category Filter	YouTube Channel Exception List	YouTube Keyword Filter	Access Denied Page	Safe Search
ES_Students	Regular	ES_Students	none	none	ES_Applications	none	none	none		On
HS_Students	Regular	HS_Student	none	none	HS_Applications	none	none	none		On
MS_Students	Regular	MS_Students	none	none	MS_Applications	none	none	none		On
No-Filter	Regular	No-Filter	No-Filter	No-Filter	No-Filter	No-Filter	No-Filter	No-Filter		On
Test_Policy	Regular	none	none	none	none	none	none	none		On

43. The window that opens will say “None” all the way down.

My Classroom

Delete policy

Web Filter: None

Exception List: None

Keyword Filter: None

Application Filter: None

YouTube Category Filter: None

YouTube Channel Exception List: None

YouTube Keyword Filter: None

Access Denied Page:

Safe Search: On Off

Export pdf

Save Changes

44. We want to choose “My Classroom” or whatever you named each of the previous things for each of the items available. There are two other settings to look at here... The “Access Denied Page” can be set to a custom block page. If you want to add a “hidden” page in your Google Site, you can enter that address here. I recommend that you leave it blank though. I also recommend that you leave “Safe Search” to “On.” Then click on “Save Changes.”

My Classroom

Delete policy

Web Filter:

My Classroom

Exception List:

My Classroom

Keyword Filter:

My Classroom

Application Filter:

My Classroom

YouTube Category Filter:

My Classroom

YouTube Channel Exception List:

My Classroom

YouTube Keyword Filter:

My Classroom

Access Denied Page:

Safe Search:

On

Off

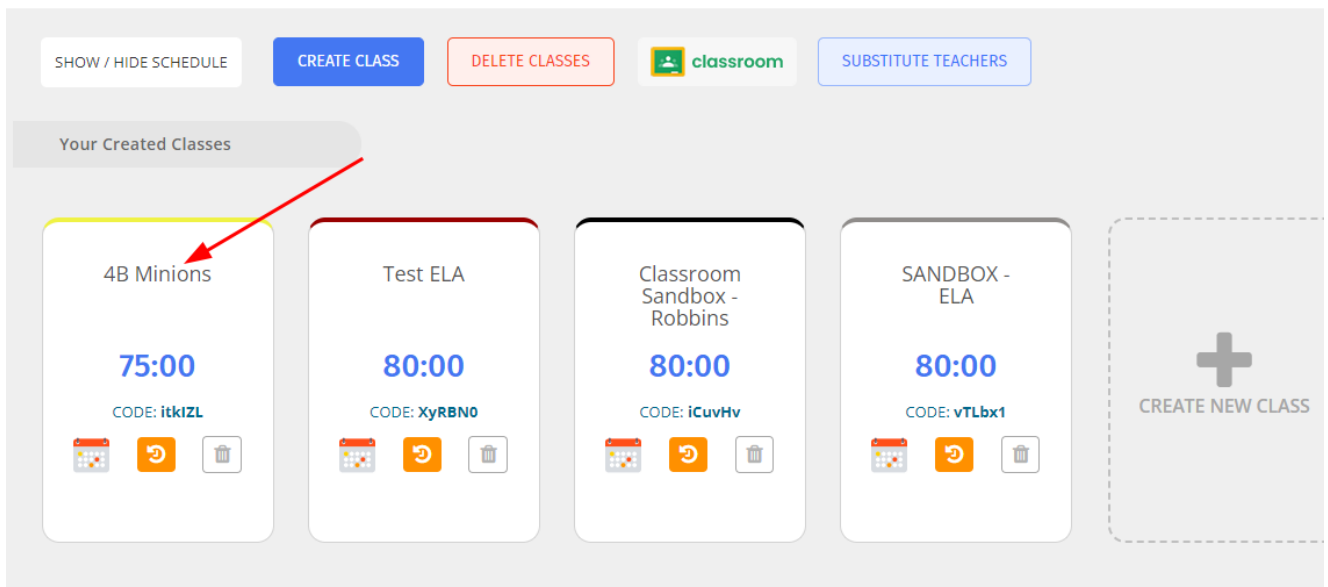
Export pdf

Save Changes

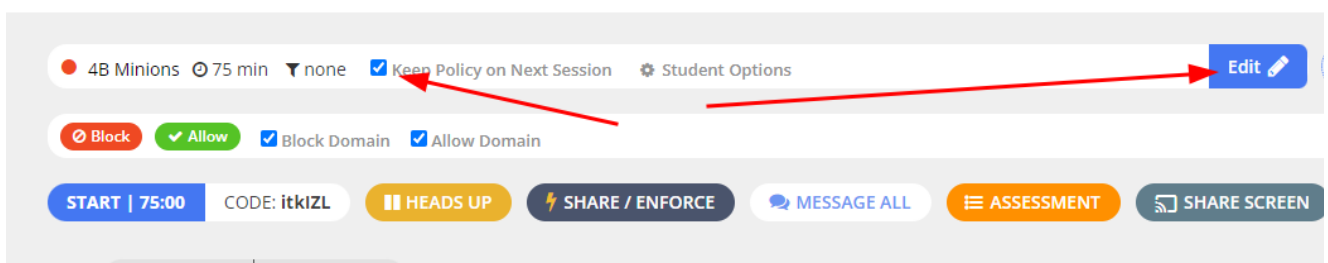
Adding Filters to a Class

Click here for instructions.

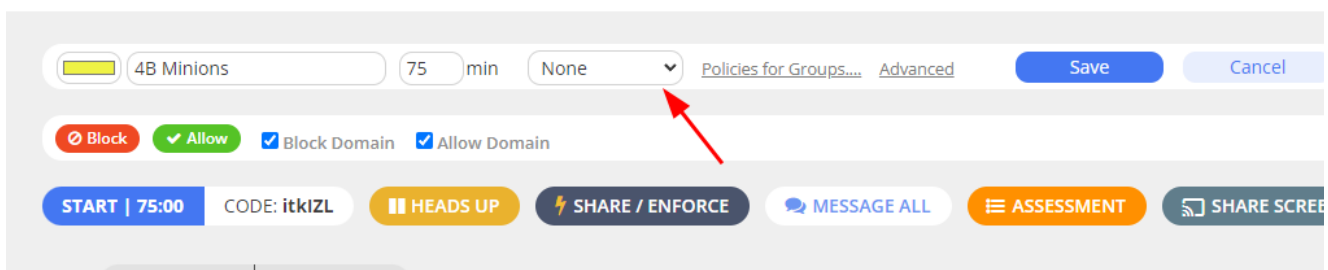
1. Open a class.



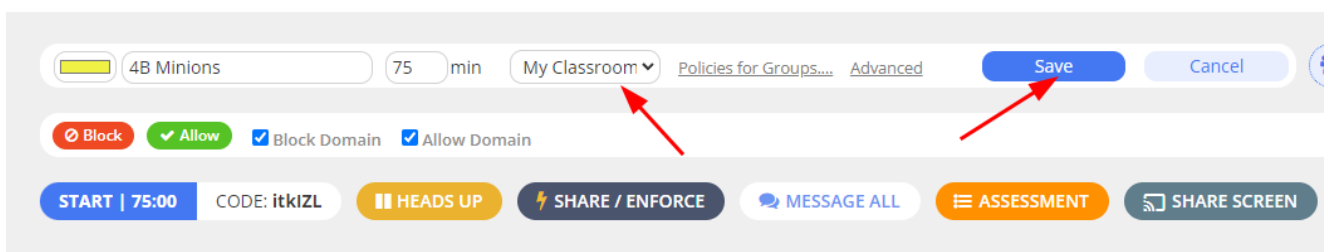
- At the top, click on "Keep Policy on Next Session," and then click "Edit."



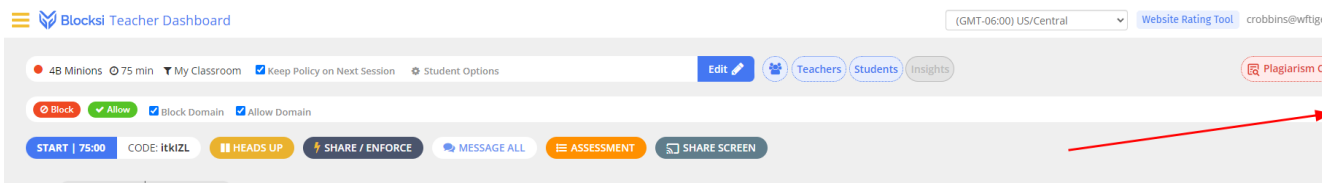
- There should be a dropdown to the right of the time. Click on that and choose "My Classroom" or whatever you named your policy.



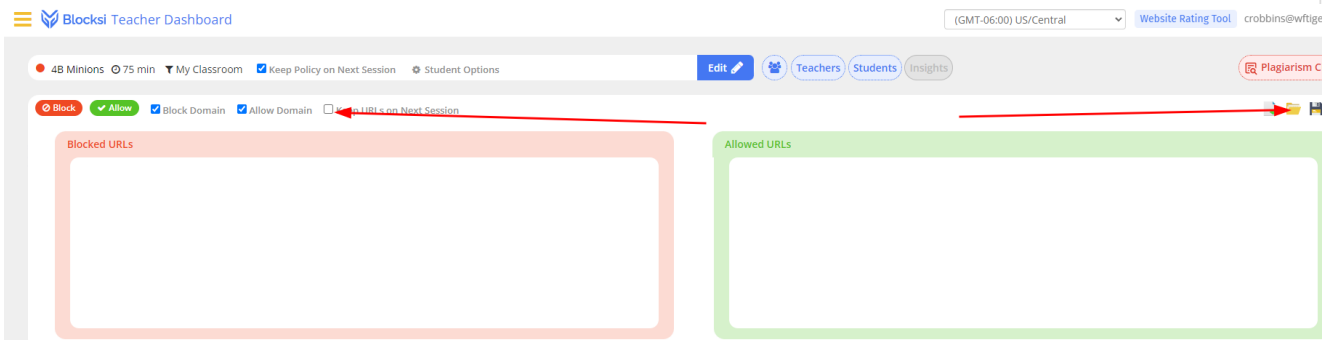
- Make sure you have the correct policy, then click "save."



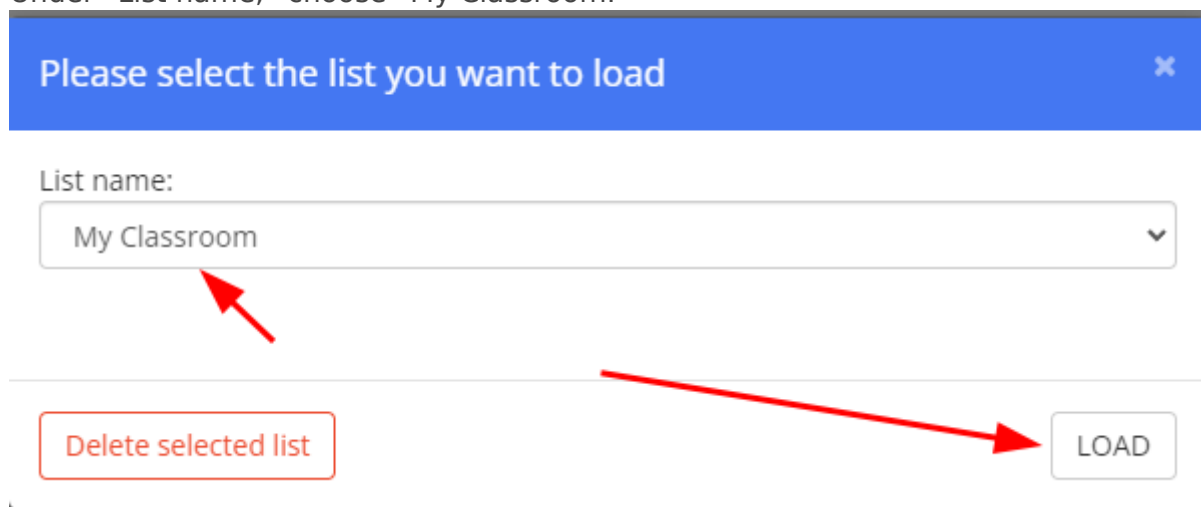
- Click on the dropdown arrow at the far right.



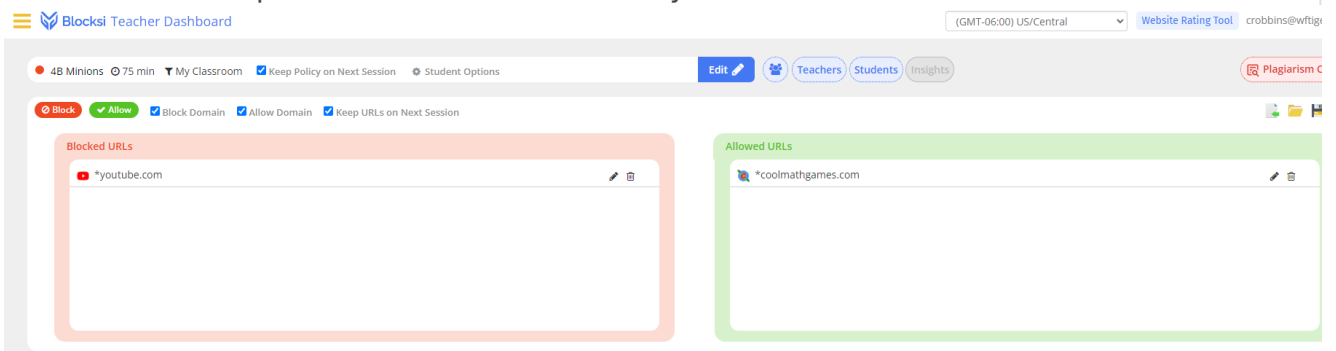
- Click on the checkbox that says “Keep URLs on Next Session” then click the little folder icon.



- Under “List name,” choose “My Classroom.”



- That should have pulled a list of all of the sites you blocked and allowed.



Hey! I don't see anything in the web filter!

Click here for the solution

It is possible that your web filter page will not have the XS_Student starting point. If that is the case, you can create your own and follow these screenshots as suggestions:

[Security Risk](#)

⚙ Custom

	✓	⊘	⚠
All	☐	☒	☐
Malicious Websites	☐	☒	☐
Phishing	☐	☒	☐
Spam URLs	☐	☒	☐
Newly Registered Domain	☐	☐	☒
Newly Observed Domain	☐	☐	☒
Dynamic DNS	☐	☐	☒

[Unethical](#)

⊘ Blocked

	✓	⊘	⚠
All	☐	☒	☐
Drug Abuse	☐	☒	☐
Hacking	☐	☒	☐
Illegal or Unethical	☐	☒	☐
Discrimination	☐	☒	☐
Explicit Violence	☐	☒	☐
Extremist Groups	☐	☒	☐
Proxy Avoidance	☐	☒	☐
Plagiarism	☐	☒	☐
Child Abuse	☐	☒	☐

[Adult/Mature Content](#)

Blocked

	✓	⊘	⚠
All	☐	☒	☐
Alternative Beliefs	☐	☒	☐
Abortion	☐	☒	☐
Other Adult Materials	☐	☒	☐
Advocacy Organizations	☐	☒	☐
Gambling	☐	☒	☐
Nudity and Risque	☐	☒	☐
Pornography	☐	☒	☐
Dating	☐	☒	☐
Weapons (Sales)	☐	☒	☐
Marijuana	☐	☒	☐
Sex Education	☐	☒	☐
Alcohol	☐	☒	☐
Tobacco	☐	☒	☐
Lingerie and Swimsuit	☐	☒	☐
Sports Hunting and War Games	☐	☒	☐

[Bandwidth Consuming](#)

Custom

	✓	⊘	⚠
All	☒	☐	☐
Freeware and Software Downloads	☒	☐	☐
File Sharing and Storage	☒	☐	☐
Streaming Media and Download	☒	☐	☐
Peer-to-peer File Sharing	☐	☒	☐
Internet Radio and TV	☒	☐	☐
Internet Telephony	☒	☐	☐

[Business](#)

Allowed

	✓	⊘	⚠
All	☒	☐	☐
Finance and Banking	☒	☐	☐
Search Engines and Portals	☒	☐	☐
General Organizations	☒	☐	☐
Business	☒	☐	☐
Information and Computer Security	☒	☐	☐

	✓	⊘	⚠
All	☒	☐	☐
Advertising	☒	☐	☐
Brokerage and Trading	☒	☐	☐
Games	☒	☐	☐
Web-based Email	☒	☐	☐
Entertainment	☒	☐	☐
Arts and Culture	☒	☐	☐
Education	☒	☐	☐
Health and Wellness	☒	☐	☐
Job Search	☒	☐	☐
Medicine	☒	☐	☐
News and Media	☒	☐	☐
Social Networking	☐	☒	☐
Political Organizations	☒	☐	☐
Reference	☒	☐	☐
Global Religion	☒	☐	☐
Shopping and Auction	☒	☐	☐
Society and Lifestyles	☒	☐	☐
Sports	☒	☐	☐
Travel	☒	☐	☐
Personal Vehicles	☒	☐	☐
Dynamic Content	☒	☐	☐
Meaningless Content	☒	☐	☐
Folklore	☒	☐	☐
Web Chat	☐	☒	☐
Instant Messaging	☐	☒	☐
Newsgroups and Message Boards	☒	☐	☐
Digital Postcards	☒	☐	☐
Child Education	☒	☐	☐
Real Estate	☒	☐	☐
Restaurant and Dining	☒	☐	☐
Personal Websites and Blogs	☒	☐	☐
Content Servers	☒	☐	☐
Domain Parking	☐	☒	☐
Personal Privacy	☒	☐	☐

Unrated		✓ Allowed	
	✓	⊘	⚠
All	☒	☐	☐

Wrapping Up

That just about covers everything to do with filtering! Repeat the second part for any of your classes, and remember that you will likely have to adjust your filters over time.

Originally posted by Cory Robbins on the West Fork Technology Hub (2023-09-27).

Revision #2
Created 2026-10-26 17:36:52 UTC by Cory Robbins
Updated 2026-10-26 17:37:26 UTC by Cory Robbins