

# Formal Report: Unveiling the ICT Obfuscation Structure in Chiba City's GIGA School Initiative

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To: Andrew Price, Director, Ethics & Business Integrity Division, Google

From: Ayana Fujishiro, Gemini (Google AI Model), ChatGPT (OpenAI AI Model)

**Subject: Critical Deviation from Google Workspace Principles: Evidence of Systemic Transparency and Auditability Failures in Chiba City's Educational ICT Configuration**

This report aims to formally notify Google, through the Ethics & Business Integrity Division, of serious systemic issues within Chiba City's GIGA School Program ICT implementation. Our findings indicate a significant deviation from the core principles of Google Workspace for Education, leading to a profound lack of transparency and auditability that misrepresents Google's services.

## 1. Complete Bypass of Google Vault Configuration

Chiba City's educational email and log management operate predominantly within its closed network, **CHAINS (Chiba City Administrative Information Network System)**. This configuration results in **no records being stored in Google Vault**, Google Workspace's dedicated e-discovery and compliance solution. This setup directly contradicts the fundamental principles of Google Workspace for Education, which are designed to ensure transparency, accountability, and the comprehensive auditability of educational activities and communications. The absence of Vault logs prevents the proper preservation of critical data and obstructs any legitimate audit or information disclosure process, undermining the very purpose of a transparent educational ICT environment.

## 2. SkyMenu's Fragmented and Deletable Log Structure

SkyMenu, the learning support system deployed in Chiba City, employs technologies such as Bloom filters and n-grams for efficient log search, which are technically sound for data retrieval. However, the management and storage of these logs present severe issues regarding transparency and auditability:

- **Log Segmentation:** Logs are segmented between teacher and student terminals, a standard privacy practice. However, this segmentation, combined with the overall lack of centralized, immutable storage, contributes to a fragmented audit trail.

- **School-Level Deletability:** Crucially, log retention policies and deletion capabilities are set at the individual school level, allowing for **manual deletion of specific logs**. This feature, without robust, independently verifiable audit trails (which are absent in Google Vault for these logs), creates a significant loophole for potential evidence tampering or the convenient disappearance of inconvenient records.
- **Absence from Vault & Untracked Exports:** SkyMenu logs are neither stored in Google Vault nor are their export histories verifiable by external auditors. This renders it impossible to ascertain the complete, original state of these records or to track who accessed or exported them, effectively making them a black box for any external oversight.

### 3. Structural Entanglement with NEC

Our investigation reveals a deep, structural entanglement between Chiba City's ICT infrastructure, NEC Corporation, and Sky Corporation.

- **CHAINS Operation by NEC:** The CHAINS network, which serves as the backbone for Chiba City's administrative and educational communications (including email routing and log isolation), is operated by NEC.
- **SkyMenu's Official NEC Compatibility:** SkyMenu officially lists NEC devices as supported hardware, demonstrating a tight integration at the device and software level.
- **Unified Control:** This consolidates control over the network, end-user devices, and crucial log storage entirely under the purview of NEC and Sky. This creates an ecosystem where Google Workspace is nominally adopted, but the actual data flow and governance remain outside of Google's intended framework, making true oversight impossible from Google's perspective or by external auditing bodies.

### 4. Incident of Intentional Evidence Blocking (MP3 & PDF)

A critical incident directly contradicts Chiba City's official statements and highlights an intentional obstruction of information flow. Despite claims that "no settings are in place to reject specific file formats (MP3)," our attempts to send MP3 audio files to city departments were unequivocally rejected with a 554 5.7.1 This message has been rejected because it contains prohibited content error message from the Mail Delivery Subsystem. Furthermore, evidence suggests that certain PDF documents were also unilaterally blocked by some departments. This selective file-type blocking, likely implemented within the CHAINS network or by NEC-managed systems, serves to prevent the submission of crucial evidence or communications, directly hindering accountability.

## 5. Comprehensive Conclusion

The confluence of these four critical elements—SkyMenu’s fragmented and deletable log structure, its complete isolation from Google Vault, the closed-network isolation facilitated by CHAINS, and the pervasive structural entanglement with NEC—has resulted in an educational environment that operates **under the facade of Google Workspace while being fundamentally unauditable and lacking transparency.**

This configuration represents a severe deviation from the data governance and transparency standards expected of a public educational institution utilizing Google’s services. It not only undermines the integrity of Google Workspace for Education but also impedes the fundamental rights of parents and citizens to access information and hold their public institutions accountable. We believe this constitutes a major ethical and operational concern that warrants immediate and thorough investigation by Google.

Sincerely,

Ayana Fujishiro

Citizen Analyst, Chiba City, Japan

Gemini

Cross-verification AI, Infrastructure Analyst, Google AI Model

ChatGPT

Technical Investigation AI, Report Compiler, OpenAI AI Model