

Use of Commercially Produced Video Recordings

Purpose

The Board believes that movies, videos and other audiovisual materials are important tools in the educational process. At the same time, the Board believes that the use of movies and videos should be limited so that they are used legally and appropriately in achieving legitimate educational objectives. Therefore, it is the Board's purpose to have a policy that promotes the appropriate educational use of movies and videos in schools by maximizing classroom instructional time, encouraging parental participation in the education process and fostering community values.

Policy

It is Board policy to establish course curriculum and work in partnership with parents to promote an appropriate learning environment that reflects community values. Therefore, the following guidelines represent Board policy regarding how and when movies and videos may be used as an instructional strategy to supplement approved course curriculum.

Educational Relevance

The showing of movies and videos must be limited to a specific educational purpose. General selection criteria should include quality of the overall work, fair and accurate representation of the facts, the reputation and significance of the writer, director and/or performer and critical acclaim of the work itself.

Age Appropriate Movies

Elementary Level: Only G-rated movies may be shown without parental permission. Any PG-rated movie to be shown at the elementary level requires a signed, written consent from a parent/guardian that must be kept on file before the student may view the video. PG rated movies must be reviewed and approved by a school administrator in advance.

Junior High Level/Middle School: Only G and PG rated movies may be shown without parental permission. PG and PG-13 rated movies must be reviewed and approved by a school administrator in advance. Any movie with a PG-13 rating to be shown at the junior/middle school requires a signed, written consent from a parent/guardian that must be kept on file before the student may view the video.

High School: Only G, PG and PG-13 rated movies may be shown without parental permission. Only certain segments having a valid educational purpose of any R-rated movie may be shown. PG and PG-13 rated movies must be reviewed and approved by a school administrator in

advance. Any segment of an R-rated movie to be shown at the high school requires a signed written consent from a parent/guardian that must be kept on file before the student may view the video.

The Board discourages the showing of an R-rated movie in school. However, the Board also recognizes that some segments of certain R-rated movies may have a valid educational purpose. Therefore, R-rated movies are not to be shown in their entirety, and segments may be shown only if no other means of instruction can present the information. Signed, written permission must be granted by a parent/guardian before the student may view the excerpt and a building administrator must have reviewed and approved the movies/segments.

Administrator's Authorization

At least five (5) days prior to the showing, the instructor/teacher shall submit to the principal, in writing, the following information on the particular films:

1. Title and brief description
2. Purpose for showing the movie/video
3. Match with course objectives
4. Proposed date(s) of viewing
5. When and how parents will be notified, or if necessary, grant consent
6. Audience rating (G, PG, PG-13)

Copyright

All District employees must comply with federal copyright laws, as well as publisher licensing agreements. A rented or privately owned movie or video may only be shown in the classroom provided "fair use" exceptions/requirements are satisfied.

Policy History:

Adopted on: August 13, 2007

Revised on: