


# Copyright: Showing Videos in School

**FBI WARNING**   
 Federal Law provides severe civil and criminal penalties for the unauthorized reproduction, distribution or exhibition of copyrighted motion pictures, video tapes, DVDs or video discs. Criminal copyright infringement is investigated by the FBI and may constitute a felony with a maximum penalty of up to five years in prison and/or a \$250,000 fine.

What's the Big Deal?

Anytime a movie is shown to a group this is considered a **“public performance.”** Copyright laws **require a performance license** for a public performance - even in schools. Showing videos without a license, may have legal consequences.

What About Fair Use?

Under section 107 of the Copyright Act, **Fair Use can apply to teachers showing small excerpts of a legally obtained movie during a face-to-face instructional activity.** Is this different from how you previously understood Fair Use? This information was posted by US Copyright Office March 2018 based on recent court decisions. For more information see this site. <https://www.copyright.gov/fair-use/more-info.html>

What are the MISD Video Options?

