

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

No. 219(a)

Board of Trustees
Douglas County School District

PROGRAM

GUIDELINES FOR MOVIES, VIDEOS, AND STUDENT PERFORMANCES

This regulation applies to commercially produced videos and movies that were not produced for specific teaching and learning purposes, and to certain student presentations. It is intended to govern the use of videos and movies that are produced for general public consumption with the primary purpose of entertainment. Movies and videos of this nature must be closely scrutinized to ascertain whether they make a direct contribution to the District's adopted course of study and foster learning that cannot be effectively accomplished through other instructional strategies or with other instructionally-oriented audio-visual materials, such as documentaries. In order for such movies and videos to be utilized in the classrooms of the District, they must have a valid educational purpose and make a direct contribution to the adopted course of study. The only exception would be the use of a movie or video as a part of a school's recognition or awards program that has received prior approval of the site administrator. Similarly, student performances (e.g., plays, skits, speeches) should be scrutinized to ensure they meet the same objectives.

Any educational professional or other person wishing to utilize a commercially produced movie or video, or who wishes to produce or present a student performance as a part of the instructional, extra-curricular or co-curricular program must obtain prior approval of the site administrator. In requesting this approval, such person is required to submit a lesson plan to the site administrator that sets forth the instructional purpose for inclusion of the movie or video being considered or, in the case of an extra-curricular or co-curricular activity, provide a written rationale. Prior to approving a movie, video, or student performance, the site administrator must evaluate the material for compliance with the following guidelines:

Guidelines

Violence: Does not include graphic violence or excessively bloody scenes.

Profanity: Does not include any vulgar, lewd, profane, obscene or plainly offensive language beyond the occasional, context-appropriate use of such language.

Nudity/Sexual Implications: Nudity or near-nudity without a valid educational purpose is not acceptable. Nudity or near-nudity that is added primarily for excitement is not acceptable.

It may be possible for educational professionals and other persons to utilize movies, videos, or student performances which may otherwise violate these guidelines if, through editing, the objectionable material can be eliminated and with the site administrator's approval.

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Appeal Process

When a site administrator considers material to be objectionable under these guidelines but worthy of further consideration, he/she may seek approval of the District Superintendent or his/her designee, who shall make the final decision. This request must be submitted on the appropriate form which has been prepared for this purpose and received by them at least four weeks prior to the time the educational professional or other person hopes to use the material. The Superintendent's decision will be made within ten school days, and a written response will be sent to the site administrator initiating the appeal procedure.

If it has been determined that the movie, video or student performance may be used in a specific course, or for an extra-curricular or co-curricular activity, it will be placed on a list of movies, videos or student performances that are permitted under exceptions to District guidelines.

Parent Notification Process

Movies, videos, or student performances on the list of those that conflict with District guidelines but have been approved for use shall require active parental consent before it is presented to students. The educational professional or other person using the material must provide notification to all parents with students who are likely to be exposed to material. This notification is to be accomplished through the use of the appropriate form which has been developed for this purpose and is a part of this regulation. This notification must be sent to parents at least one week prior to the planned viewing date. Signed parent permission must be received by the school for the student to participate.

It will inform parents of the title of the movie, video, or student performance, the date of showing, reasons why it might be objectionable, and provide information on how parents can have their son/daughter included or excluded from the planned viewing or presentation. In addition, the notification must advise parents that an appropriate alternative learning experience will be provided during the time the movie, video, or student performance is to be shown and assures parents that the grades of their students will not be negatively affected by not viewing such movie, video, or student performance.

It must be noted that the District cannot always control what the District's students might be exposed to by a movie, video, or student performance or student competitions produced by another school district or outside entity. Similarly, the District cannot always control the content of materials that might be shown or produced by non-district persons even within District schools and facilities.

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See Policy related to this Administrative Regulation
See also: Administrative Regulations 219(b), 219(c), 219(d)
Request to Utilize a Commercial Film or Video

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