



# Minneota Public School District District Procedures

Adopted: August 2023

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## DISTRICT PROCEDURES: MOVIES AND FILMS

### 1. PURPOSE

The School Board believes that movie clips, videos, and other audiovisual materials can be useful tools in the educational process. At the same time, the School 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 while minimizing the loss of classroom instruction time. Therefore, it is the School District's purpose to have procedures 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.

### 2. GENERAL STATEMENT OF PROCEDURES

It is District procedures 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 District procedures regarding how and when movies, movie clips and videos may be used as an instructional strategy to supplement approved course curriculum.

### 3. EDUCATIONAL RELEVANCE

- 3.1. Movies can provide educational value when used along with other curriculum and teaching materials.
- 3.2. Movies shown in the classroom must have a direct correlation to a lesson plan as a part of face-to-face instruction.
- 3.3. The showing of movie clips and videos must be limited to a specific educational purpose.
- 3.4. In order to minimize loss of instruction time, full length motion picture films may not be shown in class but may be assigned as homework or extra credit.
- 3.5. Educationally appropriate clips from motion pictures may be shown.
- 3.6. 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.
- 3.7. It is not appropriate to show movies solely for entertainment purposes in the auditorium or during lunch or recess. Doing so violates copyright law.
- 3.8. If parents do not want their student to view a movie, the student must be given an alternative activity and cannot be responsible for any assignments based on the content of the film.
- 3.9. Teachers should also be highly sensitive to the diverse cultures of their students. What may be acceptable in the homes of some students may not be acceptable in the homes of other students, and great sensitivity must be given to the choice of video materials used in the school.
- 3.10. Images are powerful communicators, and many parents are concerned about the content and effect of media materials used with their children.

#### **4. ADMINISTRATOR'S AUTHORIZATION**

- 4.1. Exceptions may be made to allow the showing of a motion picture by seeking Administrator authorization:
- 4.2. At least five (5) days prior to the showing, the instructor/teacher shall submit to the principal, via email, the following information on the particular films:
  - 4.2.1. Title and brief description
  - 4.2.2. Purpose for showing the movie/video
  - 4.2.3. Match with course objectives
  - 4.2.4. Proposed date(s) of viewing
  - 4.2.5. When and how parents will be notified, or if necessary, grant consent
  - 4.2.6. Audience rating (G, PG, PG-13)

#### **5. AGE-APPROPRIATE MOVIES**

- 5.1. Movie clips shown in class or movies assigned to be viewed outside of class must follow these guidelines:
- 5.2. Elementary Level: Only G and PG rated movies or movie clips may be shown at the elementary level.
- 5.3. Junior High Level/Middle School: Only G or PG rated movies or movie clips may be shown.
- 5.4. High School: Only G, PG, and PG-13 rated movies or clips may be shown. The Board discourages the showing or assigning of any R rated movies or movie clips 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 or assigned in their entirety, and segments may be shown only if no other means of instruction can present the information.

#### **6. COPYRIGHT**

- 6.1. 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 are satisfied:
  - 6.1.1. The movie or video is shown in the course of face-to-face teaching activities where a teacher or instructor is present;
  - 6.1.2. The showing of the movie or video is directly related and of material assistance to the curriculum and lesson objectives and is used as an essential part of the core, required curriculum being taught. (The instructor should be able to show how the use of the motion picture contributes to the overall required course study and syllabus.);
  - 6.1.3. The showing takes place in a classroom setting with only the enrolled students attending;
  - 6.1.4. The movie being used is a legitimate copy, not taped from a legitimate copy or taped from TV.
  - 6.1.5. If the film is a part of direct classroom and curriculum instruction, even entertainment type films can be shown without a license or permission under 17 U.S.C. § 110(1). An example of this would be showing Saving Private Ryan in American History class or Romeo and Juliet in English class.
  - 6.1.6. If the school or teacher shows these same films for entertainment or reward, a license or permission is required. Examples of this are class parties, club activities. It is better to find alternative ways to reward or entertain students during these occasional events.

#### **7. REFERENCES AND RESOURCES**

- The Copyright Act of 1976, Public Law No. 94-553, 90 stat 2541: Title 17; Section 110(i)