



# Minneota Public School District District Procedures

Adopted: August 2023

Updated: March 2026

## DISTRICT PROCEDURES: MOVIES AND FILMS

### 1. PURPOSE

The School Board believes that motion pictures, video clips, documentaries, and other audiovisual materials can be effective instructional tools when used appropriately. The School Board also recognizes its obligation to ensure that such materials are used legally, align with curriculum standards, respect community values, and do not unnecessarily replace direct instruction. These procedures establish clear expectations for the educational, age-appropriate, and lawful use of movies and films in District programs.

### 2. GENERAL PROCEDURES

Movies and video content may be used only to support approved curriculum and instructional objectives. They must not be used as filler OR entertainment. Instructional staff share responsibility with administrators to ensure compliance with copyright law, parental expectations, and District standards.

### 3. EDUCATIONAL RELEVANCE AND INSTRUCTIONAL USE

- 3.1. Audiovisual materials must have a clear, documented connection to lesson objectives.
- 3.2. Clips are strongly preferred over full-length films.
- 3.3. Full-length films may not be shown during the instructional day except with prior administrative approval.
- 3.4. Movies assigned for viewing outside of class must still meet age-appropriateness and content guidelines.
- 3.5. Movies may not replace direct instruction and must be integrated into teaching activities.
- 3.6. Students who do not view a film for any reason must be provided with a comparable alternative without academic penalty.

### 4. AGE-APPROPRIATE CONTENT GUIDELINES

- 4.1. Elementary School:
  - G-rated content only.
  - PG-rated clips permitted with administrator approval and parental notification.
- 4.2. Middle School:
  - G or PG-rated content only.
  - PG-rated content requires instructional justification.
- 4.3. High School:
  - G, PG, or PG-13 rated content permitted.
  - R-rated content may not be shown in full. Limited clips may be used only when:
    - No suitable alternative exists;
    - The content is essential to curriculum objectives;
    - Administrative approval is obtained;
    - Parents are notified in advance.

## 5. ADMINISTRATOR'S APPROVAL PROCESS

- 5.1. Any exception requires written approval from the building principal at least five (5) school days prior to use. Requests must include:
- Title and rating
  - Instructional purpose and standards alignment
  - Specific clips or duration
  - Planned dates
  - Parent notification method
- 5.2. Under the District's Public Performance Site License, movie showings may include non-student audiences such as families and community members, provided that the event takes place on school property, follows license advertising restrictions, and that prior approval is given by the building principal.

## 6. COPYRIGHT COMPLIANCE

- 6.1. All District employees must comply with Title 17 of the U.S. Code.
- 6.2. Movies may be shown without a public performance license only when all of the following are met:
- The showing occurs during face-to-face instruction;
  - A teacher is present;
  - The content directly supports curriculum;
  - Only enrolled students are present;
  - A legally obtained copy is used.
- 6.3. Movies may not be shown for entertainment, assemblies, or non-curricular purposes without a public performance license.
- 6.4. Movies shown under the public performance license must use legally obtained physical media (DVD or Blu-ray). Streaming from personal or commercial streaming platforms is not permitted in order to avoid conflicts with streaming service terms of use.
- 6.5. Movies shown for rewards, celebrations, assemblies, family events, or similar purposes are considered non-instructional and do not fall under instructional exemptions. These showings need to meet the requirements of the District's public performance license.

## 7. PARENT COMMUNICATION AND OPT-OUT

- 7.1. Parents will be informed in advance when non-G-rated content is used.
- 7.2. Parents may request an alternative assignment without penalty.

## 8. ENFORCEMENT

- 8.1. Failure to comply may result in corrective action consistent with District policy and employee contracts.

## 9. REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

- U.S. Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 110
- Minnesota Department of Education guidance
- The Copyright Act of 1976, Public Law No. 94-553, 90 stat 2541: Title 17; Section 110(i)