

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.

1. Only G or PG movies are permitted in the classroom. Parental permission should be obtained for PG films.* Exceptions to the rule would be where clips of movies may be used only where an educationally specific idea is being taught. An administrator must approve these clips prior to the showing. Film or video clips must not include violence, inappropriate language, or behavior. Permission from parents is highly recommended.
2. Age appropriateness, best professional judgment and common sense should prevail with showing any videos, educational films or documentaries when there is no indicated rating.
3. Parents and students always have an "opt out" provision and teachers need to provide an optional lesson ready for children that do not wish to watch a particular video. Opt out children should be treated discreetly and with respect.
4. Before showing a video, teachers should explain the purpose of viewing the movie and discuss the concepts the students will be learning. Each movie should be directly related to a state standard for that class.

5. In most cases, an assessment is encouraged regarding the concepts learned from the video. Examples may include a writing assignment, questions on movie content or an art project etc...
6. Movies should not be used as a time consumer for regular or substitute teachers. Every effort needs to be taken to find qualified substitute teachers and prepare lessons that are enriching, viable and aligned with the district and state curriculum.
7. Movies are discouraged from being used as an incentive for classroom work.

**High School:* Only G, PG rated movies may be shown without parental permission.

Copyright

All District employees must comply with federal copyright laws, as well as publisher licensing agreements. The legal requirements apply:

- Regardless of whether an admission fee is charged
- Whether the institute or organization is commercial or non-profit
- Whether a federal, state or local agency is involved

Legal Reference:

The Copyright Act of 1976, Public Law 94-553, 90 stat. 2541: Title 17; Section 110(i)

Policy History:

Adopted on: June 21, 2012

Revised on: