

Instruction

Use of Commercially Produced Video Recordings

Classroom time for teaching and learning is limited. In addition, active rather than passive modes of instruction are more beneficial to students. Therefore, media are to be used both appropriately and sparingly.

Media will be selected and assigned to give support directly to instructional learning objectives contained within the Board approved curriculum.

Media, when used, shall be selected for their direct relevance to the instructional program. General selection criteria should include quality of the overall work and its individual parts, fair and accurate representation of the facts, the reputation and significance of the writer, director, and/or performer.

Media shall not be used for recreation or entertainment, or for other than planned instructional purposes.

The Board establishes the following guidelines to govern the use of videos in its schools.

1. Media viewing time, on the average, is not to exceed the following limits:
 - a. elementary - no more than three (3) hours per month.
 - b. secondary - no more than two (2) periods per month per subject.
2. Media is never to replace direct skills development with student as called for in the various subject areas.
3. Media content must always be of recognized merit and relate to the curriculum.
4. In the case of a written work, students generally must read the printed version of the material before viewing the media.
5. Only full-length feature media which directly support the school curriculum may be used in the classroom in keeping with the following requirements:
 - a. **Only G-rated** media may be used at the elementary level.
 - b. **Only P.G. or P.G.-13 rated** media may be used at the middle-school level.

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- c. **P.G. and P.G.-13 rated** media may be used at the high school.
 - d. **R-rated** media may be used at the high school level only if they are of exceptional merit, enhance the curriculum and are **approved by the Principal**. The R-rated media must not contain nudity or explicit sex. If an R-rated media is being used, parents must be notified of its nature and possible offensive content, and must be given the opportunity to release their child from being required to view it. A student can opt not to view the media even if parental approval is given.
6. Teachers must preview all media before showing them to their students.

Legal Reference: Publication 94-553; The Copyright Act of 1976, 17 U.S.C. 101 et seq. and 1980 amendments

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The use of media in school are subject to the following regulations:

1. All media must be carefully previewed and evaluated by the teacher and be determined to meet identified learning objectives before they are used with students. Good taste and professional judgment must always be exercised when selecting video recordings for classroom use.
2. In general, copyright guidelines permit in-classroom use of a copyrighted videotape when it is used for instructional purposes in a teaching situation as is a lawfully made copy. *
 - a. The school setting has been defined as a "semi-public performance." Therefore, public performance rights are reserved for the copyright owner or those given permission.
 - b. Media marketed for "home use" do not have the rights granted for public performance. Rented films that include a notice that the film is intended for "home use only" shall not be shown to a class for entertainment purposes.
3. Non profit education institutions generally may use videotapes in the course of "face-to-face" teaching activities, without the need to obtain consent from the copyright owner if the following permissible guidelines are met:
 - a. The media is a legally obtained lawful copy.
 - b. The media must be used in the course of "face-to-face" TEACHING ACTIVITIES.
 - c. The media activity must be carried out by an instructor or student.
 - d. The media activity must be carried out in a classroom or similar place devoted to instruction.
4. Parents/guardians shall receive one weeks advanced written notice when teachers plan to use commercial media that are rated PG with elementary students, PG-13 with middle school students or R with high school students under the age of 18. Such notice shall include an accurate description of the contents of the video recording and where it may be obtained for parent/guardian review.

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5. Media rated NC-17 shall not be shown under any circumstances.
 6. Other media such as CD-ROM, laser disc and audio tapes, while not a part of the video rating system, should be selected and used applying the same criteria as videotapes.
 7. Media tapes may not be used for recreation or entertainment, or for other than planned instructional purposes.
- * e.g. "Grapes of Wrath" may be presented to a high school English class, but "Star-Wars" which if being shown for entertainment, would not be permitted unless copyright clearance has been obtained.

Legal Reference: Publication 94-553; The Copyright Act of 1976, 17 U.S.C. 101 et seq. and 1980 amendments