

POLICY GUIDE Sample 1

PROGRAM

2510.1/page 1 of 10

Use of Movies and/or Videos for Classroom Instruction

2510.1 USE OF MOVIES AND/OR VIDEOS FOR CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION

The Board of Education believes that video media has significant educational value and can enhance instructional delivery and learning. The use of video media must take into account the appropriateness of the content, the connection of the content to the curriculum and lesson, the length of the video media, the appropriate use of instructional time, and when parental notification is required. The following are general tenets which guide this Policy:

1. Full-length films or programs may only be utilized in lessons if the films/programs are approved by the Board of Education and listed in the specific curriculum. Teachers may submit a request for approval of such media at any time to the Principal.
2. Whenever possible, appropriate excerpts from films or programs should be used to target the specific instructional objectives of the lesson, rather than having students watch the entire piece.
3. Appropriate instructional activities and techniques must accompany lessons in which video media is utilized. These shall be included in the lesson plans and reviewed by supervisors.
4. If a film or program carries a certain rating per the MPAA or per <http://tvguidelines.org/> as addressed in the policy, parental permission shall be required on a designated form, and parents may opt children out of viewing the content, and children will be given an alternate activity.
5. Teachers may utilize at their discretion any video media of less than twenty minutes in length from various sources (of the appropriate rating); however, if the content is reasonably questionable in any way, the teacher should seek approval from the Principal.
6. Video media of twenty minutes or more (of the appropriate rating), not specially Board approved or listed in the curriculum must be approved by the Principal or designee at least one week in advance.

POLICY GUIDE Sample 1

PROGRAM

2510.1/page 2 of 10

Use of Movies and/or Videos for Classroom Instruction

7. Instructional time is precious and limited. Showing television programs, movies or other content for entertainment purposes, as a class reward, or for general “down time” for students not directly connected to a curricular-based class lesson, is strictly prohibited and is a violation of the policy. The exception would be school wide or grade-level activities or celebrations.

Board Beliefs about the Use of Video Media for Instruction

The Board of Education believes that the use of video media, including movies, clips from movies, television broadcasts, clips from television broadcasts, or the aforementioned downloaded or streamed from the Internet or stored by other means can have educational value and support, enhance, and/or supplement the curriculum and instructional lessons in the classroom. The Board believes that educators must select and use such materials in a responsible manner, taking into consideration the content and nature of the materials, the age and developmental level of the students, and in some cases parental approval of such materials. The Board believes that instructional time is valuable and that use of video materials must enhance and contribute positively to the advancement of instructional objectives, and must not cause inefficient use of instructional time. The Board believes that guidelines governing the use of such media are important to ensure the effective and responsible use of video media.

Definitions

Video Media means all forms of digital and/or analog video media, including but not limited to movies, clips from movies, television broadcasts, clips from television broadcasts, the aforementioned downloaded or streamed from the Internet or stored by other means. MPAA Rating System means the rating system established by the Motion Picture Association of America. The following is the MPAA Rating System:

1. G - General Audiences. All Ages Admitted. A G-rated motion picture contains nothing in theme, language, nudity, sex, violence or other matters that, in the view of the Rating Board, would offend parents whose younger children view the motion picture.
2. PG - Parental Guidance Suggested. Some Material May Not Be Suitable For Children. A PG-rated motion picture should be investigated by parents before they let their younger children attend. The PG rating indicates, in the view of the Rating Board,
that parents may consider some material unsuitable for their

POLICY GUIDE Sample 1

PROGRAM

2510.1/page 3 of 10

Use of Movies and/or Videos for Classroom Instruction

children, and parents should make that decision. The more mature themes in some PG-rated motion pictures may call for parental guidance. There may be some profanity and some depictions of violence or brief nudity. But these elements are not deemed so intense as to require that parents be strongly cautioned beyond the suggestion of parental guidance. There is no drug use content in a PG-rated motion picture.

3. PG-13 - Parents Strongly Cautioned. Some Material May Be Inappropriate For Children Under 13. A PG-13 rating is a sterner warning by the Rating Board to parents to determine whether their children under age 13 should view the motion picture, as some material might not be suited for them. A PG-13 motion picture may go beyond the PG rating in theme, violence, nudity, sensuality, language, adult activities or other elements, but does not reach the restricted R category. The theme of the motion picture by itself will not result in a rating greater than PG-13, although depictions of activities related to a mature theme may result in a restricted rating for the motion picture. Any drug use will initially require at least a PG-13 rating. More than brief nudity will require at least a PG-13 rating, but such nudity in a PG 13 rated motion picture generally will not be sexually oriented. There may be depictions of violence in a PG-13 movie, but generally not both realistic and extreme or persistent violence. A motion picture's single use of one of the harsher sexually-derived words, though only as an expletive, initially requires at least a PG 13 rating. More than one such expletive requires an R rating, as must even one of those words used in a sexual context.
4. R - Restricted. Children Under 17 Requires Accompanying Parent or Adult Guardian. An R-rated motion picture, in the view of the Rating Board, contains some adult material. An R-rated motion picture may include adult themes, adult activity, hard language, intense or persistent violence, sexually-oriented nudity, drug abuse or other elements, so that parents are counseled to take this rating very seriously. Children under 17 are not allowed to attend R rated motion pictures unaccompanied by a parent or adult guardian. Parents are strongly urged to find out more about R-rated motion pictures in determining their suitability for their children.

Generally, it is not appropriate for parents to bring their young children with them to R-rated motion pictures.

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POLICY GUIDE Sample 1

PROGRAM

2510.1/page 4 of 10

Use of Movies and/or Videos for Classroom Instruction

5. NC-17 - No One 17 and Under Admitted. An NC-17 rated motion picture is one that, in the view of the Rating Board, most parents would consider patently too adult for their children 17 and under. No children will be admitted. NC-17 does not mean "obscene" or "pornographic" in the common or legal meaning of those words, and should not be construed as a negative judgment in any sense. The rating simply signals that the content is appropriate only for an adult audience. An NC-17 rating can be based on violence, sex, aberrational behavior, drug abuse or any other element that most parents would consider too strong and therefore off-limits for viewing by their children.

Television Parental Guidelines Rating means the rating of programs provided by television broadcasters and can be found at tv guidelines. These ratings include:

1. All Children.
2. Directed to Older Children.
3. Directed to Older Children - Fantasy Violence.
4. General Audience.
5. Parental Guidance Suggested.
6. Parents Strongly Cautioned.
7. Mature Audience Only.

Appropriate Use of Video Media

In general, video media may be utilized as one tool to advance the instructional objectives of the Board of Education approved curriculum, classroom lesson, and/or units of study. The content of the video material must directly support the stated instructional objectives of the lesson or unit plan, and must be part of an overall lesson that engages students in the development of understanding of the content and/or the development of skills of the lesson. Video material shall be intended to enrich the curriculum and assist students in meeting instructional goals. So as to make efficient use of instructional time, whenever possible excerpts or clips from video media should be utilized rather than having students view the entire piece.

Guidelines for Use of Video Media

The following shall guide the use of video media in the classroom:

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POLICY GUIDE Sample 1

PROGRAM

2510.1/page 5 of 10

Use of Movies and/or Videos for Classroom Instruction

1. Purpose: There must be a stated instructional purpose in the lesson and/or unit plan for the use of video media in the classroom. The lesson must make clear exactly how the video media shall be used. Given the potential inappropriate nature of video media, media must be carefully reviewed by the teacher prior to consideration for use in class.
2. Less is More: In general, full-length movies or television programs should not be utilized during instructional lessons.
 - a. It is preferable that the portions of the movie or program pertinent to the objectives of the lesson should be identified and utilized.
 - b. Full-length movies or programs may be utilized only if the video media is approved by the Board of Education and are specifically listed in the curriculum for that course.
 - c. Movies or full-length programs approved by the Board of Education shall be maintained on a list of approved video media maintained by Central Office. Full-length video media not Board approved is strictly prohibited. If a teacher identifies full-length video media that she/he believes will support the curriculum which is not on the Board Approved list, the teacher may submit a request for review and approval to the Building Principal. Board approval takes several months, and therefore, teachers should not plan to utilize requested video media immediately.
 - d. Central Office shall maintain and distribute an updated list of approved video media to all teachers at least annually.
3. Good instruction must accompany viewing: In the case in which full-length movies or programs are utilized, accompanying instructional strategies and techniques must be developed and

included in the teacher's lesson plan to help the students view and process the material with purpose, and in a productive and efficient manner. These could include but shall not be limited to:

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POLICY GUIDE Sample 1

PROGRAM

2510.1/page 6 of 10

Use of Movies and/or Videos for Classroom Instruction

- a. Anticipatory questions and/or discussion.
 - b. A viewing guide.
 - c. Pausing the video at predetermined times to provide for class or small-group discussion or activity about the content.
 - d. Journal writing tasks to process or reflect upon the content in order to connect it to the overall objectives of the lesson and/or unit of study.
 - e. Supervising administrators shall review such strategies in lesson plans to ensure that full-length video media is utilized appropriately and in a manner consistent with this policy.
4. Teacher discretion for shorter video media: So as to make efficient use of instructional time, whenever possible pertinent video media clips should be shown, rather than viewing any media in its entirety. Excerpts from movies, television programs, or other video segments of less than twenty minutes may be infused into daily lesson plans at the teacher's discretion. Teachers shall submit lesson plans to a supervisor/administrator per established procedures. When utilizing video media of less than twenty minutes, teacher should consider the following:
- a. Movies or television programs from which excerpts are utilized must be approved by the Board of Education.
 - b. Teachers may utilize at their discretion other video media (video media from appropriate Internet sources or other sources) of less than twenty minutes in length directly related to the content of the curriculum and classroom lessons. If the content of the video media's appropriateness is reasonably questionable in any way, the teacher should consult with the Principal and seek approval using the attached approval

form. Please err on the side of caution.

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POLICY GUIDE Sample 1

PROGRAM

2510.1/page 7 of 10

Use of Movies and/or Videos for Classroom Instruction

- c. There should be a clear purpose of the video media directly related to the instructional objectives.
 - d. Students should be provided clear direction regarding the purpose of the video segment and anticipatory questions and/or prompts to explicitly connect the video material to the content of the lesson so that the viewing of such material is productive and contributes to the lesson.
 - e. Direct instructional strategies should be utilized to help students process the content of the video segment to make it meaningful to the instructional objectives of the lesson.
5. Approval for video media of twenty minutes or more (not already BOE approved): Any video media segment of twenty minutes or more, not specifically approved by the Board of Education and listed in the curriculum for that course must be approved by the Building Principal or designee (content supervisor or administrator) using the attached approval form.
6. Preview materials carefully: All video media must be previewed by the teacher before showing the material to students. The choice of video material to be utilized for instructional purposes shall consider the following:
- a. The age, maturity, and sophistication of the students shall be considered when selecting material.
 - b. The movie or video's Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) rating or television parental guidelines rating.
 - c. The presence of profanity, sexual content, prejudicial stereotypes, or violence. Video segments, movies or clips used in the classroom shall not include persistent use of sexually-charged content, profanity, depiction of sexual acts, nudity, graphic or pervasive acts of violence, drug use, or aberrant behavior. The presence, or any reasonable

question of the presence, of any such material shall prompt required evaluation and approval of the material for use by the Principal or designee (content supervisor or administrator) utilizing the attached approval form.

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POLICY GUIDE Sample 1

PROGRAM

2510.1/page 8 of 10

Use of Movies and/or Videos for Classroom Instruction

- d. The quality of the overall piece and its relationship to the content of the curriculum and/or lesson.
 - e. The accuracy of the piece, i.e. consideration of opinions, veracity and fair representation of “facts,” information that is timely, impartial and without bias.
7. Limitations based on video media ratings: For the use of any video media of any rating, the instructional relevance must be clearly demonstrated in the curriculum and lesson plan. The appropriateness of the video media, and the need for parental permission of viewing, depends on the grade-level of the students and the rating of the video media.
- a. For elementary classes and activities, movies or clips from movies may only be show if they carry the MPAA G or PG rating or equivalent.
 - (1) Great care must be taken when choosing a PG film or program for elementary students to ensure the suitability of the material; viewing must be under the educational guidance of the teacher.
 - (2) If a Board-approved PG-rated film or television program is to be shown in its entirety, parents of elementary students will provide written permission on the form attached to this Policy at least one week in advance. A parent or guardian who does not wish the child to view the film must provide a written objection, and the child will be given alternate lessons appropriate to the child’s grade level as determined by the teacher.
 - b. For middle school classes and activities, video media may only

be shown if they carry the MPAA G, PG, PG-13, or PG-14 (television) rating or equivalent. Instructionally relevant video media from Board-approved PG-13 or PG-14 rated films or programs may be shown according to the following:

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POLICY GUIDE Sample 1

PROGRAM

2510.1/page 9 of 10

Use of Movies and/or Videos for Classroom Instruction

- (1) If a Board-approved PG-13 or PG-14 rated film or program is to be shown in its entirety, parents of middle school students will provide written permission at least one week in advance on the form attached to this Policy. A parent or guardian who does not wish the child to view the film must provide a written objection, and the child will be given alternate lessons appropriate to the child's grade level as determined by the teacher.
- c. For high school classes and activities, video media may only be shown in their entirety if they carry the MPAA G, PG, PG-13, PG-14 (television) rating or equivalent. R or MA (television) rated materials that are approved by the Board of Education may be shown according to the following guidelines:
- (1) Whenever possible, only instructionally-relevant clips should be utilized.
 - (2) Full-length R-rated films or MA-rated programs may not be show in school unless:
 - (a) The video media is approved by the Board of Education.
 - (b) The video media is specifically listed in the curriculum for that particular course.
 - (c) Parents or guardians will provide written permission at least one week in advance on the form attached to this Policy of viewing

of the video media. A parent or guardian who does not wish the child to view the film must provide a written objection, and the child will be given alternate lessons appropriate to the child's grade level as determined by the teacher.

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PROGRAM

2510.1/page 10 of 10

Use of Movies and/or Videos for Classroom Instruction

- (3) NC-17 films are prohibited from viewing in school.
- (4) Courses whose sole purpose is to view and evaluate movies are exempt from this section of this Policy. Parents of students in such a course shall be sent notification at the beginning of course with the list of movies and programs the students will view during the course. All video media for the course must be Board approved and listed in the curriculum. If a parent objects to the student viewing video media on the course list, the student should be removed from the course.

- 8. Any use of video material must adhere to all Federal copyright laws as well as publisher licensing agreements.
- 9. Instructional time is precious and limited; use video media wisely: Showing television programs, movies or other content for entertainment purposes, as a class reward, or for general “down time” for students not directly connected to a curricular-based class lesson is strictly prohibited and is a violation of the policy. The exception would be school-wide or grade-level activities or celebrations approved by the **building Principal**.

Adopted:

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