

Pittsfield School District

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS SELECTION

Purpose. The Board believes that movies, videos, and other audiovisual materials can be important tools in the education 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 parent participation in the education process, and fostering community values.

Policy. It is the policy of the Board 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.

Administrator's Authorization. At least five days prior to the showing, the teacher/instructor/advisor/coach shall submit to the dean of instruction, in writing, the following information on the particular movie or video that is intended to be shown to students:

1. Title and brief description;
2. Purpose for showing the movie or video;
3. Course objective(s) and/or curriculum standard that is to be supported through the viewing of the movie or video;
4. Proposed date(s) of viewing;
5. When and how parents will be notified or, if necessary, grant consent;
6. Audience rating (G, PG, PG-13).

Approval is required prior to showing.

Age Appropriate Movies and Videos.

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Elementary School (PS-6) Level: Only G rated movies or videos may be shown or assigned. Parents must be notified that a movie or video will be shown in class.

Middle School (7-8) Level: Only G rated movies or videos may be shown or assigned. Parents must be notified that a movie or video will be shown in class.

High School (9-12) Level: Only G, PG, and PG-13 rated movies or videos may be shown or assigned. Any movie with a PG-13 rating to be shown at the high school level requires a signed, written consent from a parent/guardian that must be kept on file before the student may view the video.

At the high school level, the Board acknowledges that occasions may arise when a movie or video that does not meet the rating standard does meet other criteria regarding purpose and educational relevance. In such cases, the dean of instruction may approve the viewing, in whole or in part, of such a movie or video provided that parents provide written consent for viewing and that an option that will not penalize students in any way be provided for students whose parents do not provide consent.

Copyright. 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 a classroom provided “fair use” exceptions are satisfied:

1. The movie or video is shown in the course of face-to-face teaching activities; and
2. The showing of the movie or video is directly related and of material assistance to the curriculum and lesson objectives.

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