

IIAE

USE OF MOVIES AND OTHER RESOURCES CREATED PRIMARILY FOR ENTERTAINMENT

The Board recognizes the value of varied instructional approaches, including the use of multi-media resources and movies, for maintaining high student interest in learning. However, care is required to assure that such resources are used in an appropriate manner to enhance curriculum and instruction. Use of movies or other materials created primarily for entertainment purposes, that are related to the curriculum only loosely or not at all, should not reduce the amount of class time devoted to instruction and learning.

Further, the Board recognizes and supports the right of parents to determine the nature of materials to which their children are exposed.

To this end, the Board establishes the following guidelines for the use of movies and similar resources in the classroom:

1. The Rochester School Department prohibits violation of any and all copyright laws, national and international, governing the use of copyrighted materials by staff members within the scope of their employment. This includes group presentations of video materials licensed only for home viewing.
2. School personnel will adhere to the intent of the ratings of the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) and similar associations for other media. That is, parents will receive prior notice if the school intends to show a movie with a rating of PG, and will be given a reasonable opportunity to notify the school of their desire for their child(ren) not to be exposed to these materials. Movies with an MPAA rating of PG-13 will not be shown to students age 13 or under without specific permission from parents; and materials with a rating of R will not be shown to students age 17 or under without specific permission from parents. Movies with a rating of NC-17 will not be shown in the Rochester School Department.
3. The principles described in Item 2, above, for MPAA ratings of movies, shall apply to similar rating systems for other media, including, but not limited to, those governing broadcast programming and music CDs.
4. Before a movie or other resource intended primarily for entertainment is used as part of classroom instruction, the teacher should make a reasonable attempt to secure other resources that may be more appropriate and effective for instruction and more closely tied to instructional objectives.
5. If a movie or other resource intended primarily for entertainment is determined to be the best and most effective resource for instruction, the teacher may use portions of the resource as permitted by fair use doctrine of the U.S. copyright law (17 USC §107), and, for selections of up to thirty minutes in length, approved by the building principal. While guidelines governing fair use are vague, it is generally permissible, for instructional purposes, to show a selection that is less than a "performable unit". For purposes of this policy, fair use will be defined as up to thirty minutes a full length motion picture, or thirty percent of a resource for which thirty minutes would constitute a performable unit.
6. If a teacher or other instructional staff member determines that it is necessary to show more than a thirty minute selection from a resource for instructional purposes, the staff member

shall first provide evidence to the Superintendent or designee that this will substantially increase the effectiveness of instruction, that it is directly related to a curriculum objective, and that other resources and avenues have been examined and found to be less effective for instructional purposes.

7. Use of movies and other materials specifically designed for instruction and intentionally geared toward K-12 curriculum by reputable vendors may be exempt from this approval requirement at the discretion of the principal and/or superintendent and are subject to other policies governing the selection of instructional materials.
8. If a portion of a movie rated PG-13 or R (or equivalent for other resources) is to be used under the provisions of paragraphs 5 and/or 6, parents shall be afforded the rights granted under paragraph 2, even though the selection presented to students may not contain materials that led to the rating.
9. For purposes of a class celebration, teachers in the elementary and middle schools may be permitted to use no more than one movie per year, during regular class time, that is not related to the curriculum. For purposes of this provision, no movies with a rating of R will be shown in any school in the district, and movies with a rating of PG-13, while strongly discouraged for use in any class, will not be shown in classes with students under the age of 13. Performance of movies with a rating of PG-13 in classes that have no students under the age of 13 will require parental notification and permission for all students, regardless of age, unless such student is an emancipated minor or has reached the age of 18 and indicated that he/she is independent from his/her parents. Use of such movies or other resources will be permitted only with copies duly licensed for public performance in conformance with copyright laws.
10. Exceptions to this policy related to special learning needs (e.g. behavior modification plans in special education classes, etc.) will require approval of the Superintendent or designee based on the individual circumstances of the class, program, or individual students.

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