

## **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, videotapes, including feature length movies and filmstrips, (hereinafter “videos”) are to be used both appropriately and sparingly.

Teachers will select and assign videos to give direct support directly to instructional learning objectives contained within the Board approved curriculum.

Videos, 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, and the reputation and significance of the writer, director, and/or performer.

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

1. Each video would be considered on the merits of 1) careful analysis of content/subject area significance; 2) the quality of the film; 3) the educational value of the film in the context of the curriculum; 4) the effective use of instructional time; and 5) the specific instructional merits of the film that could not have otherwise been presented in an active mode of instruction.
2. A video is never to replace direct skills development with students as called for in the various subject areas.
3. Video content must always be of recognized merit and related to the curriculum.
4. In the case of a written work, students generally must read the printed version of the material before viewing the video.
5. Prior to viewing the video, students should be provided with a study guide or lesson activity which sets the purpose and connects the video to student outcome.
6. Students should respond critically to the presentation after viewing.
7. Full-length feature movie videos, which must directly support the school curriculum, may be used in the classroom in keeping with the following requirements:
  - a. G-rated videos may be used at the elementary level. PG-rated videos may be used at the elementary level at the discretion of principal/designee.
  - b. G and PG-rated videos may be used at the middle school level. PG-13 rated videos may be used at the middle school level only if they are of exceptional academic merit, enhance the curriculum, and are approved by the principal/designee. If a PG-13 rated video is approved for use, parents must receive advance written notice of its nature and possible offensive content.
  - c. G, PG, or PG-13 videos may be used at the high school. R-

rated movie videos may be used at the high school level only if they are of exceptional merit, enhance the curriculum, and are approved by the principal/designee. The R-rated video must not contain nudity or explicit sex. If an R-rated video is being used, parents must be notified of its nature and possible offensive content, and must give written permission for their child, if under age 18, to view it. A student can opt not to view the video even if parental approval is given.

d. A video rated NC-17 shall not be shown under any circumstances.

8. Teachers must preview all videos before showing them to their students.

**Legal Reference:**

Publication 94-553; The Copyright Act of 1976, 18 U.S.C. 101 et seq. and 1980 amendments.

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LEDYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Ledyard, Connecticut