

Series 6000 - Instruction

1. Elementary and Secondary

G. Curriculum Extensions

(7) 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, videos, including feature length movies, are to be used appropriately in the classroom.

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

Videotapes/DVD's, when used, shall be selected for their direct relevance to the instructional program. General selection criteria should include overall quality of the video 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. Video viewing time, on the average, is not to exceed the following time limits:
 - a. **Elementary** – no more than three (3) hours per month.
 - b. **Secondary** – no more than three (3) periods per month per subject.
 - c. **Exception** – courses that focus on programs related to film and video are exempt from the above time limitations.
2. Videos should be used to supplement direct skills development with students as called for in the various subject areas.
3. In the case of a written work, students should generally read the printed version of the material before viewing the video.
4. Commercially rated videos/DVDs which directly support the school curriculum may be used in the classroom in keeping with the following requirements:
 - a. **Only G-rated and PG with parental approval** movie video/DVDs may be used at the elementary level.
 - b. **Only G, PG or PG-13 rated** movie videos/DVDs may be used at the middle school level.
 - c. **G, PG and PG-13 rated** movie videos/DVDs may be used at the high school.
 - d. **R-rated** movie videos/DVDs 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 videos/DVDs should not contain gratuitous sex. If an R-rated movie is being used, parents must be notified of its nature and possible offensive content, and must give permission for their child, if under age 18, to view it. A student may opt not to view the video even if parental approval is given.

5. Teachers must preview all videos/DVDs before showing them to their students.
6. In general, excerpts rather than an entire full-length video shall be used in the classroom to maximize time for active learning activities. This does not apply to videos that are designed solely for educational use (as opposed to commercial use).
7. Excerpts that contain none of the content that contributes to an R-rating need not be approved by the administration.

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

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SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Suffield, Connecticut