

Title: Use of Films and Other Visual-Type Materials in Public Schools

Rationale:

The availability of films, VCR tapes, TV, cassettes, and other AV materials for use today in our public schools, is almost unlimited. The film industry and producers have a different concept of what is wholesome and healthy for both students and adults.

Since parents' and teachers' values of what materials are suitable and what are not suitable may vary from community to community, some system of checks and balances needs to be devised to assure that all films, VCR tapes, TV programs or other such video materials are previewed by the instructor involved before it is shown to the students in the classroom.

Policy:

Any teacher or other person acting in the place of the teacher, should preview all audio-visual materials to be used in the classroom to determine if such materials are of educational value.

When using commercially produced movies or VCR tapes, the following shall serve as a guide:

1. Any movie rated "G" shall be considered suitable for use at levels K-12, provided such movie is related to course learning objectives.
2. At any level, movies rated "PG" or "PG13" shall require parental permission before viewing, and must be related to course learning objectives.
3. Any showing of television productions that advise "viewer discretion" will require parental permission before students shall be permitted to view such materials.
4. If, upon previewing audio-visual materials whether rated or unrated, there is any doubt about the suitability or educational value of such materials, the teacher shall send a letter to parents of students viewing such material securing their permission for their children to participate. The letter should disclose the title of the material to be shown along with the rationale for showing the material. Only those students bringing a parental permission note will be permitted to view the material. No student shall be penalized in any manner for a parental request that their child (children) be excused from viewing the material.
5. In the preview process, if questionable scenes are seen or heard, the instructor should clear the material with the school principal.