

Instructional Use of Films, Videos and Internet-based Materials

The following criteria will be used for the selection and use of film, video and internet-based materials:

Instructional Use

- 1) Films, videos and internet-based materials used in the classroom shall enrich, support, or extend the curriculum, and will take into consideration the instructional needs, abilities, interests, and developmental levels of students.
- 2) The film, video or internet-based material must be related to an instructional learning target, and may not be purely an entertainment activity.
- 3) The film, video or internet-based material must be shown in a classroom or similar facility, and a teacher must be present when the material is being viewed by students.
- 4) A film or video purchased by the school district or made available through the Educational Service District, is approved for classroom usage, provided it is closely tied to the curriculum framework for that particular class lesson or subject.

Instructional Program Material Selection

The selection criteria applies to materials selected by staff, students, guest presenters or other persons who may bring materials into the school setting. Criteria for selection of film, video or internet-based instructional material selection shall be based on the following criteria:

- a) Will enrich and support the curriculum or a specific learning target or essential learning requirement, taking into consideration the varied instructional needs, abilities, interests, and maturity levels of the students who will be viewing the material.
- b) Will stimulate student growth in conceptual thinking, factual knowledge, skill development, physical fitness, health, the arts, or literary, cultural or historical standards, or the advancement of citizenship.
- c) Is part of a larger program of study that presents all views of controversial issues designed so that students may develop the skills of critical analysis and informed decision making.
- d) Is an appropriate resources in presenting contrasting and differing points of view, and that instructional responsibility has been taken in presenting all points of view in a balanced program of study appropriate to the developmental age of students and the learning target.
- e) Reflects a sensitivity to the community.
- f) Presents objectively the principles of non-discrimination, both current and historical, including gender, age, racial, ethnic, sexual orientation and cultural issues.

Elementary Standards

Films and videos with a film industry rating **G** may be used, for instructional purposes, in Washougal School District elementary classrooms without parent notification.

Normally **PG** rated material will not be used; however, if the film or video is appropriate to the curriculum and approved by the principal, such material may be shown. Washougal School District parent consent forms must be issued to each student, signed by the parent, and returned to school prior to the classroom showing of any **PG** rated film or video. Students without parental permission must be provided comparable, alternative assignments.

No **PG 13** or **R** rated films/videos will be shown in elementary classrooms.

Middle School Standards

Films and videos with a film industry rating of **G** may be used, for instructional purposes, in Washougal School District middle school classrooms without parent notification.

Normally **PG** or **PG 13** rated material will not be used; however, if the film or video is appropriate to the curriculum and approved by the principal, such material may be shown. Washougal School District parent consent forms must be issued to each student, signed by the parent, and returned to school prior to the classroom showing of any **PG** or **PG 13** rated film or video. Students without parental permission must be provided comparable, alternative assignments.

No **R** rated films/videos will be shown in middle school classrooms.

High School Standards

Films and videos with a film industry rating of **G** may be used, for instructional purposes, in Washougal School District high school classrooms without parent notification.

Films or videos with a film industry rating of **PG** or **PG 13** may be used, for instructional purposes, however a parent consent form must be issued to each student, signed by the parent, and returned to school prior to the classroom showing of any **PG** or **PG 13** rated film or video. Students without parental permission must be provided comparable, alternative assignments.

Normally **R** rated material will not be used; however, if the film or video is appropriate to the curriculum, cannot be addressed with a suitable documentary, has been approved through the building department heads, and building administration, such material may be shown. Washougal School District parent consent forms must be issued to each student, signed by the parent, and returned to school prior to the classroom showing of any **R** rated film or video. Students without parental permission must be provided comparable, alternative assignments.

NOTE: Rented films and videos may be used only in a classroom or in a similar setting for the purpose of instruction. Films, videos, CDs and internet material may not be shown for the purpose of entertainment unless a public entertainment fee is paid.

Films/videos edited for television must be used as per their original audience rating.

Films/videos produced for entertainment purposes that do not have an audience rating must be reviewed and approved by the principal (a) for age appropriate content, and (b) compliance with the three-page test identified in this regulation before being used at any grade level.

*The Parent Consent Form must state the teacher's objective for use of the film and note any scenes, language, etc. that may be objectionable.

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Revised: 10.12.15
Removed from Policy Series: 04.23.13
Reinstated to Policy Series: 10.20.15
Washougal School District**

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Materials Appeal Process

Residents of the Washougal School District wishing to appeal the use of any instructional material must use the procedural form for requesting reconsideration of the instructional material. The complainant will deliver the completed form to the Superintendent's office and the following steps will be taken:

- A. An open meeting will be scheduled with the Instructional Materials Committee within 30 days of receiving the *Request for Reconsideration* form. The person bringing forward the concern will have the opportunity to briefly present his/her concerns.
- B. The complainant, members of the IMC and appropriate staff will be notified of the date, time and place of the meeting. Staff are invited to participate, as needed, to provide relevant oral or written information supporting the use of the instructional material that has been brought forward for reconsideration.
- C. Within 30 days of the meeting, the complainant will be informed in writing of the Instructional Materials Committee's decision.

WASHOUGAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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WASHOUGAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FILM/VIDEO PARENT CONSENT FORM

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The following film/videotape will soon be shown in your student's classroom:

Title: _____

Rating: _____

Teacher: _____

Class: _____

Showing Date: _____

Educational Objective(s):

Reason for rating:

In accordance with district guidelines you have the option of excusing your student from viewing this film/video if you wish to do so. If you choose to exercise this option, a comparable, alternate assignment will be provided. If you have any questions or would like to preview the film or videotape, please contact the teacher listed above during regular school hours at the following telephone number:

To be filled out by the teacher and issued to each student at least five school days before the showing date.

To be filled in and signed by the parent or guardian and returned to school by the showing date given above.

(student's name)

has my permission to view the film/video described above.

(student's name)

does not have my permission to view the film/video described above.

Signature of parent/guardian

Date