

VIDEO USE IN THE SCHOOLS

The School District recognizes that the commercial video can serve as a legitimate enhancement to instruction in the classroom. Video may be used to expand the classroom setting, or take students to a different time or place in their learning.

However, it must also be recognized that video can also be misused and abused if over-used, if it supplants instead of supplementing instruction, if it is used to reduce the amount of reading and responding required for a class, or if it exposes students to content that conflicts with school, parental or community standards.

It is expected that teachers will use sound professional judgment when selecting multimedia materials for use in the schools. District policy guidelines, specifications and expectations for video use in the schools are outlined below:

1. All video usage, whether commercial products, off-air recordings, home-produced, or student-produced, must be in strict compliance with all copyright laws.
 2. Video media will not supplant literature or reading assignments. In a language arts course, the reading of literature will be the main focus of instruction. On occasion, and for specific purpose, video segments or excerpts are more appropriate than showing an entire video.
 3. Commercial films or videotapes having obvious educational value may be shown when in compliance with copyright laws, and when appropriate to the content of the subject being studied.
 4. All multimedia materials to be used in the school must be previewed, in advance, by the teacher.
 5. Videos will not be shown without consistent use of study guides, teacher-directed discussion, or written evaluation. It is acceptable, and even encouraged, practice to show only relevant sections of a video, rather than viewing the entire program.
 6. Teachers should use caution in the use of video media for the purpose of rewarding student behavior, having entertainment as its primary value. Videos shall never be used as "filler". Staff must get prior approval from the building principal or designee for any use of this type. All relevant copyright laws, including the requirement of licensing permission, must be followed.
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7. Parents/guardians must receive one week's advance written notice, or a notice in a course description or syllabus, when teachers plan to use commercial video recordings in conflict with the following District restrictions relative to MPAA ratings:

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| G | may be shown at all grade levels |
| PG | may be shown in grades 6-12 |
| PG-13 | may be shown in grades 9-12 |
| R | may be shown only in grades 11 & 12, and only with permission of the principal and parental notification |
| NC-17 or X | may never be shown in schools |

Requests to use video that is contrary to these restrictions must be based on outstanding content relevant to the topic of instruction, such that it would outweigh the concerns of objectionable material relative to the maturity of the students. Any such usage must be pre-approved by the building principal, before parent permission is sought. If approved by the principal, parents will be notified of the planned usage, provided information about the MPAA rating and an accurate description of the contents of the recording, informed how they may preview the materials, and notified of their right to request an alternate activity for their child.

8. Parents/guardians may request, in lieu of viewing a video recording that their child be given a meaningful, related alternative activity associated with the same learning objective.
9. Student-produced videos must be made under strict guidelines, and must be previewed before being shown in any District class. Students are expected to abide by the following guidelines when making videos to show in the classroom:
- ✓ No guns or weapons are allowed to be shown in the video. If a student needs to represent a weapon because of a plot, it must be an obvious prop.
 - ✓ Students are expected to use appropriate language in their video.

- ✓ All content should be consistent with what is appropriate for the classroom. What is permissible on television may not be permissible for the classroom. Teacher/supervisor judgment is required.
- ✓ All drug and alcohol references must be done responsibly and with prior permission from the teacher.
- ✓ The video must have credits either before or after the film.
- ✓ All dialogue must be clear and understood.
- ✓ If a student breaks the law when preparing and/or showing the video, the video will be turned over to the police department.
- ✓ All copyright laws will be followed and enforced.

Any exceptions to these guidelines, for legitimate educational purposes, must be pre-approved by the building principal.

LEGAL REF: WI. ST. 120.12

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Last Revision: _____

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