

CURRICULAR USE OF "R" RATED FILMS/VIDEOS FOR GRADES 9-12

Manchester Public Schools is dedicated to providing a well-rounded quality education reflective of multiple perspectives. To enhance this instruction, grades 9-12 teachers may utilize the viewing of "R" rated films, DVDs, and other electronic media providing this media has been pre-approved by the Media Approval Committee and appears on the approved film list. Such media can be an effective tool in developing instructional learning objectives in high school courses.

The approved film list will be created in direct correlation to the Board of Education mission. It must be directly related to the instructional learning objectives and intent contained within the Board of Education approved curriculum for the course. Requiring a signed parental permission slip to allow a student to view such media for instructional purposes will ensure parental choice. This permission form will include the name of the film, the proposed date(s) of viewing, statement of instructional purposes(s) and proposed alternative assignment if parental permission is not granted. The Curriculum and Instruction Committee of the Board of Education must review the list of approved films on an annual basis.

Adopted: November 26, 2007

Administrative Guidelines

1. MHS principal will establish a Media Approval Committee composed of teachers, administrators, and a parent representative, if possible.
2. This committee is charged with reviewing all requests to use "R" rated films, DVDs, videos and other electronic media as a supplement to the Board of Education approved curriculum for a particular course.
3. The committee will develop criteria or a rubric for determining the appropriateness of such media related to the Board of Education Mission Statement and the instructional learning objectives of the curriculum.
4. Once a film is on the approved list, a teacher may select the film or parts thereof to be used as a supplemental teaching tool for the course.
5. If a film is not on the approved list, the teacher must submit the film to the Media Approval Committee for review and approval. The District wide curriculum supervisor and the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction may be consulted prior to final approval.
6. Parental choice is ensured by requiring a signed parental permission slip to allow any student to view such media for instructional purposes. This permission form will include the name of the film, the proposed date(s) of viewing, statement of instructional purposes(s) and proposed alternative assignment if parental permission is not granted.
7. Alternative assignments provided to those students who opt out of viewing the "R" rated content must be designed in a fashion that allows the student to gain a similar educational experience to those students viewing the film and still feel comfortable with the learning experience. When a parent decides to opt out, the teacher will ensure that the student will not feel isolated or uncomfortable.

Adopted: November 26, 2007