

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES AND RESOURCES**Use of Films, Videos, Digital Media Content, and Television for Student Viewing**

It is the policy of Elk Grove Unified School District to provide visual materials for students which are appropriate for student viewing and which support the instruction program. The following parameters prevail:

1. Policy 6162.1 and Administrative Regulation 6162.1 address all media used in the classroom and/or during any school sponsored activities, including films, videos, television, and digital media such as videostreaming and computer downloads used in the classroom and/or during any school-sponsored activities. All media must adhere to the copyright policy and must have a direct tie to the curriculum and support the instructional program. All media should provide a different perspective and allow students to experience a curricular area.
2. No "X" or "NC-17" rated films shall be shown. "R" rated films cannot be shown at the elementary or middle school level.
3. Parents must be informed in writing if controversial or sensitive media is used for student viewing. Accompanying the written information will be a form allowing parents to elect an alternative assignment for their children. Family Life media, "R" rated media (grades 9-12), and "PG-13" rated media (grades 6-8) require positive (active) parent permission.
4. Alternative assignments will be given for students excused from viewing.
5. "R," "PG-13," and "PG" rated films and unrated educational commercial films/videos/digital media/television rebroadcast must meet the following criteria:
 - A. have been reviewed and approved by the site administrator or designee(s)
 - B. have been linked to the curricular objectives
 - C. are shown only after written information is provided to parents which includes:
 1. the rating,
 2. the reason for the rating (obscenity, nudity, violence, etc.),
 3. the curricular objectives that the film has a tie to, and
 4. an alternative assignment of comparable difficulty for students excused from viewing.
 - D. a district family preview session will be provided for "R" rated films at grades 9-12 and for "PG-13" rated films at grades 6-8.

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6. All “R” rated media will be reviewed by the District ad hoc committee to determine appropriate usage.
7. Any educational television shows and/or digital media viewed in the classroom and/or during any school sponsored activities must have a direct tie to the curricular objectives. Activities prior to and after the television or digital media event should support the curricular program and require students to utilize the new knowledge. Opportunities should be available for students to extend their learning beyond the program. “R” rated videos will not be assigned as homework or extra credit in grades 9-11. Extra-credit activities or homework assignments that recommend the viewing of an “R” rated film for grade 12 are not permissible without adherence to all of the conditions indicated above. Any “R” rated video approved for grade 12 homework or extra credit may only be used for that purpose. All grade 12 homework and extra credit assignments that recommend the use of restricted videos must also include selections that are not “R” rated.
8. Parents must be provided with multiple opportunities to receive information and to provide or deny permission for student viewing of “R” (grades 9-12) or “PG-13” (grades 6-8) rated media. Parent information must include the movie title, its rating, the reason for the rating, the curricular objectives that the film has a tie to, and an alternative assignment of comparable difficulty for students excused from viewing. Communication will occur through:
 - a. The Elk Grove Unified School District Parent and Student Handbook, which includes a form enabling parents to withhold their children from seeing certain movies for the entire year,
 - b. The class/course syllabus or parent information letter at the beginning of the school year, which includes a permission form,
 - c. Two parent preview nights for “R” and “PG-13” rated videos at the District Office, and
 - d. Positive (active) parent permission letters which will be sent home at least two weeks prior to the showing of the movie.
9. Substitutes in the Elk Grove Unified School District must follow the lesson plan prepared by the classroom teacher. Substitutes may not choose to show a film, video, or television program of their own choice.

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10. If a teacher wishes to use a “R” (grades 9-12) or “PG-13” (grades 6-8) rated video that is not on the approved list, the “Application For Video Approval” form must be completed and submitted to Curriculum/Professional Learning by the second week in June for summer review by the District review committee. Once films have been approved, they will not need to be submitted in future years.
11. Unrated educational commercial films/videos/television including media such as *Reading Rainbow*, social science documentaries, and science series do not need to be submitted for review by the District review committee. Family Life films must still be submitted to the Family Life Advisory Committee.

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Use of Films, Videos, Digital Media Content, and Television for Student Viewing (cont.)

Sample Letter for removal of grade 9-12 students from viewing “R” rated material and grade 6-8 grade students from viewing “PG-13” rated material.

Date

Dear Parent/Guardian,

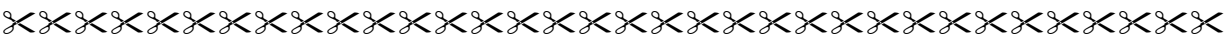
Our class is currently studying (Title of Unit). To enhance students’ understanding of (Concepts, Topics, Themes), I am planning to show (Title and Description of Video) on (Date).

The video is rated (Rating) because of (Reason for Rating). It is important for classroom use because (Rationale). The curricular objectives addressed by the video include:

- (Curricular Objective)
- (Curricular Objective)
- (Curricular Objective)

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,



Student Name _____ Teacher _____

Please return by _____
(date)

_____ I wish to have my child participate in the video viewing.

_____ I DO NOT wish to have my child participate in the video viewing and request an alternative assignment.

Parent Signature

Date

Approved: 5-16-94
Revised: _____

ELK GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Elk Grove, California