

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY MANUAL

SECTION: 6000
CATEGORY: Instruction
POLICY CODE: 6177-Film/TV Viewing

FILM/TV VIEWING POLICY

Policy

The Trumbull Board of Education approves the viewing of appropriate films during school or at school sponsored activities. The film, or a segment of a film, that will be selected for viewing must have educational value, and show a direct link to the instructional learning objectives of the approved curriculum. Student engagement, rather than passive modes of instruction, is more beneficial to students. Therefore, videos, including feature length films and filmstrips, are to be used both appropriately and sparingly.

Approved: 4/27/99

Regulations

1. If a video presentation (film, television production, computer and or Internet download) has been found to have educational value, the following requirements must be met.
 - a. The teacher wishing to present it must first view it – in its entirety –.
 - b. Prior approval must be obtained from the department chairman and/or the school administrator for classroom viewing if the presentation could be considered inappropriate by a reasonable person.
2. Use of films must be age appropriate.
 - a. G-rated films/segments may be used at the elementary level.
 - b. G, P.G. or P.G. – 13 rated films, segments may be used at the middle school level.
 - c. G., P.G. and P.G. – 13 rated films/segments may be used at the high school level.
 - d. R- rated films may be used at the high school level only if they are of exceptional merit, enhance the curriculum and are approved by the house principal. The R-rated films must not contain nudity, explicit sex or extreme violence. If an R-rated film will be used, parents must be notified of its nature and possible offensive content and must give permission for their student, if under age 18, to view it. This must occur at least one week prior to viewing. In addition, a student may opt not view the film even if parental approval is given (see attached). In this case, appropriate, meaningful, alternative activities should be planned.
 - e. No NC-17 films may be shown under any circumstance.
3. If a video presentation (film, television production, computer and/or Internet download) is designed to educate students on issues such as drugs, sex education, puberty and health issues, the same procedure as outlines above should be followed along with:
 - a. Prior written notification to parents/guardians at least one week in advance.
4. Any portion of the regulations may be overridden for good and sufficient reason by the school principal or the Superintendent.

Regulations

5. In general, copyright guidelines permit use of copyrighted videotape when it is used for instructional purposes in a teaching situation and is a lawfully made copy. Video presentations shall also comply with the Copyright Manual of the Trumbull Public Schools.
 - a. The school setting has been defined as a “semipublic performance.” Therefore, public performance rights are reserved for the copyright owner or those given permission.
 - b. Videotapes marked for “home use” do not have the rights granted for public performance. Rented films that include film that is intended for “home use” shall not be shown to a class for entertainment, recreation, or reward purposes.

Reference

- Section 110.1 of the U.S. Copyright Act, Videocassettes/Videodiscs
- Trumbull Board of Education Copyright Manual, Prepared by : Attorney James R. Frederick

Instruction: Use of Commercially Produced Video Recordings

VIDEO VIEWING PERMISSION FORM

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NOTIFICATION FORM

Date: _____

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I am planning to show _____ to my _____ grade
_____ class. This film/video is rated _____. The rating is due to these factors:

The purpose of seeing this film/video is to: _____

_____ The film/video will be shown in its entirety.

_____ Only the following portions of the film/video will be shown: _____

If you wish to preview the film/video, it may be borrowed or rented from: _____

Signature of Teacher

If you want your child to view this film/video, please sign below and return this form with your child or mail it to the address indicated. Please return this form on or before: _____.

(If a form is not returned by the indicated date, we will presume permission has not been granted and the child will not view the film/video.)

Film/Video: _____

Student Name: _____

Signature Parent/Guardian: _____

School: _____ School Address: _____