

6177/Instructional Use of Commercially-Produced Media

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY MANUAL

SECTION: **6000**
CATEGORY: **Instruction**
POLICY CODE: **6177/Instructional Use of
Commercially-Produced
Media**

INSTRUCTIONAL USE OF COMMERCIALY-PRODUCED MEDIA

Policy Statement

The instructional use of any commercially produced medium (e.g., a film) shall be based upon the medium’s alignment with the learning goals and essential questions contained with the Board-approved curriculum guide for the particular course of study.

Selection and use of such media shall conform with Trumbull Board of Education Policy 6161.1, “Selection of Instructional Material,” as well as Trumbull Board of Education Policy 6162.6, “Copyright Law Compliance.”

For the instructional showing of films, whether in whole or in part, level-specific guidelines apply. At the elementary school level, films rated “G” may be used. Additionally, at the elementary school level, films rated “PG” or “PG-13” may be used, but only if they are of exceptional merit, enhance the curriculum, and are approved by the building Principal if not specifically listed in the Board-approved curriculum guide for the particular course of study. If a “PG”-rated or “PG-13”-rated film meets these criteria, the teacher must notify parents of students in the class via a form developed by the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessments. The teacher must distribute the form at least one week in advance of the film’s showing, and must receive affirmative permission by a student’s parent, and approval by the student himself/herself, in order for that student to then view the film. In the absence of such permission and approval, the teacher shall have the student complete an alternative assignment, such alternative assignment designed to achieve, to the extent possible, the goals and objectives of the relevant curricular area.

At the middle school level, films rated “G” or “PG” may be used. Additionally, at the middle school level, films rated “PG-13” may be used, but only if they are of exceptional merit, enhance the curriculum, and are approved by the appropriate building Principal if not specifically listed in the Board-approved curriculum guide for the particular course of study. If a “PG-13”-rated film meets these criteria, the teacher must notify parents of students in the course via a form developed by the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessments. The teacher must distribute the form at least one week in advance of the film’s showing, and must receive affirmative permission by a student’s parent, and approval by the student himself/herself, in order for that student to then view the film. In the absence of such permission and approval, the teacher shall have the student complete an alternative assignment, such alternative assignment designed to achieve, to the extent possible, the goals and objectives of the relevant curricular area.

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At the high school level, films rated “G,” “PG,” or “PG-13” may be used. Additionally, at the high school level only, films rated “R” may be used, but only if they are of exceptional merit, enhance the curriculum, are approved by the appropriate House Principal if not specifically listed in the Board-approved curriculum guide for the particular course of study, and do not contain nudity, explicit sex, or extreme violence in any excerpt to be shown. If an “R”-rated film meets these criteria, the teacher must notify parents of students in the course via a form developed by the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessments. The teacher must distribute the form at least one week in advance of the film’s showing, and must receive affirmative permission by a student’s parent, and approval by the student himself/herself, in order for that student to then view the film. In the absence of such permission and approval, the teacher shall have the student complete an alternative assignment, such alternative assignment designed to achieve, to the extent possible, the goals and objectives of the relevant curricular area.

No film rated “NC-17” may be shown, in whole or in part, under any circumstances.

Adopted: 4/27/1999

Revised: 11/21/2017, 8/28/2018

References

- Trumbull Board of Education Policy Code 6161.1: Selection of Instructional Material
- Trumbull Board of Education Policy Code 6162.6: Copyright Law Compliance