

Draft – February 23, 2010

Oak Park Elementary School District #97 Bylaws & Policies

MOVIES, VIDEOS, AND TELEVISION PROGRAMMING

GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT

It is District policy to establish course curriculum and work in partnership with parents/guardians to promote an appropriate learning environment that reflects community values. Therefore, the following guidelines represent Board policy regarding how and when movies, videos, and television programming may be used as an instructional strategy to supplement approved course curriculum.

COPYRIGHTS

Rented or Privately Owned Movies and Videos: All District employees must comply with Federal copyright laws, as well as publisher licensing agreements. A rented or privately owned movie or video may only be shown in the classroom provided the following "fair use" requirements are satisfied:

- A. The movie or video must be shown in the course of face-to-face teaching activities in a classroom or similar place devoted to instruction;
- B. The showing of the movie or video must be directly related and of material assistance to the curriculum and lesson objectives.

RECORDED PROGRAMS FROM NETWORK AND CABLE TELEVISION: Teachers may only show programs recorded off-air from network and cable television channels, according to the following guidelines:

- A. Educators desiring to show television programs for instructional purposes should request the school library/media specialists to record the program at school with school recording facilities.
- B. Teachers and other school officials who show television programs for entertainment purposes violate this policy as well as federal copyright law.

EDUCATIONAL RELEVANCE OF MOVIES, VIDEOS, AND TELEVISION PROGRAMS

The showing of movies and videos **MUST** be limited to specific educational purposes. A full-length movie video, or clip thereof, shall not be shown in school unless its content is relevant to the curriculum and specific educational objectives, is appropriate to the age and maturity of the students, is a productive use of class time and will not cause classroom disruption.

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REVIEW, APPROVAL, AND PROPER USE OF MOVIES, VIDEOS, AND TELEVISION PROGRAMMING

With the exception of network and cable news programs as defined in this policy, all educator requests to show movies, videos, and television programming not on District- or school-approved lists must receive written approval of the school administrator.

PARENT/GUARDIAN NOTIFICATION AND WAIVER PARTICIPATION

- A. For all movies, videos, and clips thereof carrying a TV-Y-7, PG, TV-PG, TV-PG, PG-13 or TV-14 rating, or television warning of parental/guardian discretion, parents/guardians shall receive written notification of the proposed showing at least five (5) school days prior to the movie, video, or television program showing.
- B. If a parent/guardian objects to a student's viewing of an approved movie, video, or television program and personally communicates such objection to the teacher or administrator, the teacher shall not allow the student to view the movie, video, or television program. The teacher shall provide the student alternate assignments or course work similar to that done by students who view the movie, video, or television program.
 - i. Parents who do not object within the five (5) school day notice period shall be deemed to grant consent for their child's viewing of a movie or video.
- C. Nothing in this policy grants parents, guardians, students, or school staff the authority to prohibit an approved movie's showing based solely on individual objections. At the same time, while waivers are available, educators should be sensitive to individual complaints and take all reasonable steps to resolve complaints equitably in a manner that would allow the child full participation in the curriculum.

DEFINITIONS

“Broadcast television” means any program shown on a broadcast or public television network; i.e., CBS, ABC, NBC, PBS.

“Cable television” means any program shown on cable or satellite channel; i.e., any television program on non-network channels.

“Curriculum” means course curriculum as established by the District Curriculum Department.

“Instructional television” means any television program produced by or shown on a public or instructional television network that is specifically intended for educational use.

“Movie/video” means any commercially produced feature-length film, movie, program, or clip thereof, or any videotape, or videotaped portion, of a television program.

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“News program” means any full-length network or cable news program, or videotaped portion thereof, produced for the primary purpose of objectively reporting the news; i.e., daily or nightly news shows such as those broadcast by CBS, NBC, ABC, FOX, CNN.

“Rating” means the rating given a movie by the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA); i.e., G, PG, PG-13, R, NC-17, or the rating given a television program by networks/producers; i.e., TV-Y, TV-Y-7, TV-PG, TV-14, TV-M.