

MODESTO CITY SCHOOLS

Administrative Regulation

AR 6161.11

INSTRUCTION

Instructional Materials

Instructional Materials, Grades K-6

Instructional materials intended for instruction, including a text read to and/or by a class, instructional videos, software, CD ROMs, or other related technology resources are approved for classroom instruction if they meet any one of the criteria below:

1. Books/texts adopted by the Governing Board.
2. Supplementary books on the District adopted Passport to Literature list.
3. Standard reference materials (dictionaries, maps, charts), basic skills workbooks or practice books, and published sheet music.
4. Instructional video, software, CD ROMs, or other related technology resources on the Modesto City Schools Technology Resources approved list, Stanislaus County Office of Education approved list, or the CLRN (California Learning Resources Network) document.
5. Supplementary support materials which are age appropriate and directly relate to and support state content area standards and the district approved course of study.

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Instructional Materials, Grades 7-12

Instructional materials, including printed material, instructional videos, software, CD ROMs, or other technology resources are approved for classroom instruction if they meet any one of the criteria below:

1. Books/texts on a district approved course outline or the district approved Passport to Literature list according to the textbook approval process.
 - a. Core literature books and books on the Passport to Literature list have been reviewed and recommended by the site English chairpersons, the District Language Arts Coordinator, the Director, Educational Services and approved by the Board of Education.
 - b. Books with graphic content have been identified and annotated. Parents must be notified by mail of the title of the book, the annotation, and their right to request an alternate book assignment.
2. Standard reference materials (dictionaries, maps, charts), basic skills workbooks or practice books, and published sheet music.
3. Instructional videos, software, CD Roms, or other technology resources on the Modesto City Schools Technology Resources list Stanislaus County Office of Education approved list, or the CLRN (California Learning Resources Network) list.
4. Supplementary support materials which are age appropriate and directly relate to and support state content area standards and the district approved course of study.

Dramatic productions/plays selected for classroom performance or school theatrical productions must be reviewed and approved by the school site principal.

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Instructional Videos, K-12

Instructional videos shall be selected with the objective of supporting the basic program of instruction, enriching curriculum, stimulating learning, and promoting principles of good citizenship and community values. (Although referred to throughout this administrative regulation as videos, this regulation includes other forms of electronic instructional materials, including laser discs, compact discs, video discs, etc.).

Instructional videos shown in the classroom must be directly related to the course curriculum and content standards in the approved course outline. Time spent on showing instructional videos shall not be excessive.

“You-Tube” or other video available via the internet may be used in the classroom if it contains age-appropriate material for students and is for an educational purpose. “You-Tube” videos do not have to be approved by the Board and the site principal may limit the use of such videos as needed.

Feature Films/Videos, K-12

Instructional use in the secondary classroom of feature films/videos initially intended and produced for movie theaters or made for television movies, regardless of rating, is limited to three (3) full feature film/videos per year. Exceptions may be granted by the principal/designee based on extenuating and unusual circumstances.

Feature film/video excerpts of approximately 15 minutes and documentary/instructional videos produced for classroom use are excluded from these limitations.

Requests for approval to show grade 7-8 students “PG-13” rated films/videos or grades 9-12 students “R” rated films/videos must be submitted per the process outlined in Administrative Regulation 6161.11 (c), (d) and (e).

The Governing Board recognizes that a determination as to whether certain films and videos are appropriate curricular tools will depend upon the content of the film or video as well as the age and maturity of the student audience.

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However, the Governing Board must also be practical in recognizing that the Governing Board does not have the time or resources to review all films and videos to make a determination as to whether or not each specific film or video is an appropriate educational tool. It is the intent of the Governing Board to delegate this final determination to the Superintendent.

The Governing Board has reviewed the criteria and procedures utilized in establishing a rating system adopted by the Motion Picture Association of America. The Governing Board finds that the criteria used and judgment employed by the Motion Picture Association regarding the contents of a film or video's level of violence, offensive or raw language, nudity, sex, drug usage, and other elements for the purpose of establishing a rating to inform the public as to the contents of a film provide a solid foundation towards evaluating and determining the use of appropriate films in the educational setting.

Accordingly, the Governing Board finds as follows:

1. **Films Rated "NC-17" Or "X"**

The criteria utilized by the Motion Picture Association of America resulting in a rating of "NC-17" or "X" provide a reasonable basis for concluding that a film or video contains material which is obscene, vulgar, profane, does not reflect community standards, and/or is not related to legitimate curricular objectives and, therefore, is excluded for all grade levels.

2. **Films Rated "R"**

The criteria utilized by the Motion Picture Association of America resulting in a rating of "R" provide a reasonable basis for concluding that a film or video contains material involving violence, offensive or raw language, nudity, sex, drug usage, and other elements which are not appropriate for students in the elementary, middle or junior high school level.

Films rated "R" and unrated films of similar content (see above) may be shown at the high school level, provided the following occurs:

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- a. The film/video is on the approved Modesto City Schools Instructional Materials list/course outline. Parents/guardians will be notified by the District in advance of approved films and videos. They may select to opt the student OUT of the assignment by notifying the school and requesting an alternate assignment.
- b. If the film/video is not on the approved Modesto City Schools Instructional Materials list/course outline, it may not be shown until it has been reviewed and approved through the Feature Films/Video Selection Process described in Item 6 below.

3. **Films Rated “PG-13”**

The criteria utilized by the Motion Picture Association of America resulting in a rating of “PG-13” provide a reasonable basis for concluding that a film or video contains material involving violence, offensive or raw language, nudity, sex, drug usage, and other elements which are not appropriate for students in the elementary, middle or junior high school level.

Films rated “PG-13” and unrated films of similar content (see above) may be shown at the middle or junior high school level provided the following occurs:

- a. The film/video is on the approved Modesto City Schools Instructional Materials list/course outline. Parents/guardians will be notified by the District in advance of approved films and videos. They may select to opt the student OUT of the assignment by notifying the school and requesting an alternate assignment.
- b. If the film/video is not on the approved Modesto City Schools Instructional Materials list/course outline, it may not be shown until it has been reviewed and approved through the Feature Films/Video Selection Process described in Item 6 below.

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- c. Recognizing the timeliness and nature of certain off-air video recordings, a commercial or public broadcast may be shown if directly related to specific course objectives and if copyright policy is followed.

4. **Films Rated “PG”**

The criteria utilized by the Motion Picture Association of America resulting in a rating of “PG” provide a reasonable basis for concluding that a film or video contains material of a mature nature which may not be appropriate for students in the elementary or middle school level.

Films rated “PG” and unrated films of similar content (see above) may be shown at the elementary school level provided the following occurs:

- a. The film/video is on the approved Modesto City Schools Instructional Materials list/course outline.

Parents/guardians will be notified by the district in advance of approved films and videos. They may select to opt the student OUT of the assignment by notifying the school and requesting an alternate assignment.

- b. If the film/video is not on the approved Modesto City Schools Instructional Materials list/course outline, it may not be shown until it has been reviewed and approved through the Feature Films/Video Selection Process described in Item 6 below.
- c. Recognizing the timeliness and nature of certain off-air video recordings, a commercial or public broadcast may be shown if directly related to specific course objectives and if copyright policy is followed.

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5. Films Rated “G”

The Governing Board finds that films/videos rated “G” are appropriate for viewing by all grade levels provided the teacher or staff member choosing to present the film/video identifies the curricular objective for the film/video. All “G” rated films/videos are subject to the approval of the principal.

6. Feature Films/Video Selection Process

- a. Requests for approval of feature films/videos are submitted to the Director, Educational Services. The Director, Educational Services may deny the request based on the district criteria for “R” or “PG-13” rated films or present the request to the District Video Review Committee. Denials may be appealed to the District Video Review Committee.
- b. The District Video Review Committee is a curriculum-based committee composed of two teachers per high school, one teacher per junior high, administrators, two parents/guardians per high school and one parent/guardian per junior high. The Committee approves films/videos for recommendation to the Superintendent for final review. Committee members must view the films to participate in the selection process (vote).

Films/videos will be assessed based on district criteria, including sensitive content, relevance to the curriculum and course standards, and extent of classroom time spent viewing videos as well as the guidelines adopted by the Stanislaus County Board of Education.

- c. The Superintendent, as the Governing Board’s designee, makes the final determination of the videos/films to be submitted to the Governing Board for approval and inclusion on the “Modesto City Schools Instructional Materials: Films/Videos List” and reflected in course outlines.

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- d. The Governing Board will be provided with an itemized list of all films considered for the Feature Films/Video Selection Process two (2) months prior to presentation to the Governing Board.
- e. Parents will be notified annually of the films which may be shown at the school site. The notification will include the films' ratings and sensitive content as well as inform parents of the right to "opt out" their student from viewing any particular film or films. An "opt out" form will be attached to the notifications for the convenience of the parent.

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