

## **Audio-Visual and Media Use Policy**

The use of videos, DVDs, media clips, and other audio-visual materials can be beneficial tools for instruction when used with discretion. This benefit must be weighed against the detrimental effects of screen time as described by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

<http://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/Pages/Media-and-Children.aspx>

### **Guidelines:**

1. The video or media clip shown must be relevant to the material being studied as part of face-to-face instruction, as per Fair Use under Federal Copyright Law. Any videos or media clips may not be used for entertainment, reward, or behavior modification. <http://www.copyright.gov/fls/fl102.html>
2. The length of the video being shown should only be that which is necessary to convey the concept being studied.
3. Showing a film in its entirety may be appropriate if it is a documentary or a recorded version of a literary performance.
4. Commercial movies (i.e. those made for entertainment and shown in theatres) may only be used in very limited circumstances. Specifically, when there is no other audio-visual material which addresses the topic, the educational value of the movie is so great that it warrants being shown in its entirety, or it is explicitly recommended in a board-approved curriculum.
5. Only materials which have been legally manufactured and purchased may be used as part of instruction.

### **Age Appropriateness**

When non-commercial videos or media clips longer than 20 minutes are shown in the classroom, the building administrator may request that the instructor submit an Audio-Visual and Media Use form 4520E to determine age-appropriateness and relevance to subject of study. These will be submitted at least one week prior to class viewing.

If commercial movies are shown in a classroom, the following rating guide will be followed: (Rating is determined by the industry accepted rating system of the Motion Picture Association of America)

--Only "G" rated films should be shown in grades K-6

--Only "G" and "PG" films may be shown in grades 6-7

--Only "G", "PG", and "PG-13" films may be shown in grades 8-12

--No films or parts of films with the rating of "R", "NC-17", or "X" are to be shown.

### **Opt-Out Option**

1. Teachers must notify parents/guardians of films that will be shown in the classroom. This can be accomplished by either of the following:
  - (a) including the films in the class syllabus and distributed to the parents/guardians at the commencement of a particular course; or
  - (b) separate handout sent home each time a video is shown in class. This handout will be distributed at least a week prior to viewing to provide parents/guardians ample time to opt-out if they so choose.
2. Parents/Guardians shall have the opportunity to opt their child out of any movie by way of a written note to the teacher.
3. Teachers will provide a lesson alternative for children who have opted out.
4. Children who have opted out will be treated discreetly and with respect.

This policy will be fully implemented by September 2015

Adoption date: March 23, 2015