

Policy for Showing Full-Length Movies and Movie Clips in the Classroom (version 2.0)

It is the policy of the Walton County School District that time spent in the classroom be devoted to instruction. When appropriate, full-length movies and movie clips can be shown to enhance student learning. However, time spent on these activities should be limited so that they are only used as supplemental material for curriculum taught in the classroom. In general, full-length movies should be avoided due to the limited amount of instructional time contained in the 160-day calendar. Use of full-length movies and movie clips should meet the guidelines listed below:

I. Video Usage

Full-length movies or movie clips should primarily be used for instructional purposes. Clips may come from videos, DVDs, United Streaming, YouTube, etc. Teachers are required to preview any movie or clip and use professional judgment before showing it in the classroom. Things to consider when previewing a movie or clip are:

- Age and maturity of students
- Relevance to curriculum and standards for the class
- Will not cause a classroom disruption
- Content is appropriate – based on ratings below and professional judgment (especially when ratings are not available)

II. Video Ratings

A. Elementary School

- Only “G” rated movies may be shown
- May show “PG” rated movies with written guardian permission

B. Middle School

- Only “G” and “PG” rated movies may be shown
- May show “PG-13” rated movies with written parent permission

C. High School

- Only “G”, “PG”, and “PG-13” rated movies may be shown

No one may show movies with a rating of “R”, “NC-17” or “X”. Movies or clips should not contain: nudity, sexual content, profanity, violence, or inappropriate behaviors. Because many online videos are not rated, teachers should be particularly careful when showing online videos to their students. If a movie or clip does not have a rating, please refer to <http://www.mpaa.org/ratings/what-each-rating-means> and follow those guidelines.

Movie clips that are less than 15 minutes do not need administrative approval before viewing in the classroom. However, they must be previewed by the teacher and must follow the guidelines stated above. Full-length movies and clips longer than 15 minutes must be approved by school administration to ensure that instructional time is maximized.

III. Opt Out Opportunity

Parents must be given the option for their child to opt out of viewing a movie. Teachers are required to list any full-length movies they intend to show on their syllabus, regardless of the movie’s rating. Teachers should also include a statement about showing clips in the classroom. Parents should be informed about the possibility of particular movies shown in the classroom and given the option for their child to opt out of viewing the movie. If a parent chooses for their child to opt out, their child must be given an alternative assignment.