

DRAFT - AR 6161.11
Pleasanton Unified School District

Administrative Regulation

Instruction

SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Use of Films, Videos, Digital Media Content, and Television for Student(s) Viewing

It is the policy of the district to provide audiovisual materials that are appropriate for student(s) viewing and which support the instructional program.

Board Policy 6161.11 and Administrative Regulation 6161.1 address all media used in the classroom and/or during any school sponsored activities, including films, videos, television, and digital media such as short clips, video streaming and computer downloads used in the classroom and/or during any school-sponsored activities. All media must adhere to the copyright policy and must have a direct tie to the curriculum and support the instructional program.

The following parameters prevail:

SUMMARY OF PUSD POLICY REGARDING THE USE OF AUDIOVISUAL MEDIA		
Audience	MPAA Rating	Comments
Elementary School Grades TK-5	NC-17, R, and PG-13	May not be shown
	PG	Needs principal and positive parental approval
	G	Needs teacher review for appropriateness
Middle School Grades 6-8	NC-17, R	May not be shown
	PG-13	Needs principal and positive parental approval
	PG, Unrated (UR)	Needs teacher review for appropriateness

High School Grades 9-12	NC-17	May not be shown
	R	Needs principal and positive parental approval
	PG-13, PG, Unrated (UR)	Needs teacher review for appropriateness
Student(s) have the right to request an alternative assignment regardless of parental/guardian consent.		

1. Alternative assignments aligned to the same California State Standards will be given for student(s) excused from viewing.
2. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) must be informed in writing if controversial or sensitive media is used for student viewing. Accompanying the written information will be a form allowing parents to elect an alternative assignment for their children. See [PUUSD AR 6161.11 Exhibit 1](#) for sample template.
3. Parent(s)/guardian(s) must be provided with multiple opportunities to receive information ahead of time and to provide or deny permission for student viewing of "R" (grades 9-12) or "PG-13" (grades 6-8) rated media. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) information must include the movie title, its rating, the reason for the rating, the curricular objectives that the film will be used for, and an alternative assignment of comparable difficulty for students who are excused from viewing.

Communication will occur through:

- a. The District Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and Student Guide, which includes a form enabling parent(s)/guardian(s) to withhold their children from seeing certain movies for the entire year,
 - b. At the beginning of the school year, a teacher(s) may outline known media content in their class/course syllabi or parent(s)/guardian(s) information letter. A permission form will be included in this communication.
 - c. A parent(s)/guardian(s) preview night may be requested for "R" and "PG-13" rated videos, coordinated at the school site, and
 - d. Positive (active) parent(s)/guardian(s) permission letters, which will be sent home at least two weeks prior to the showing of the movie.
4. Films requiring principal approval will be reviewed by a site's Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) to help determine appropriateness.
 - a. The teacher will submit [AR 6161.11 Exhibit 2](#) to the principal.
 - b. The ILT will review the request and approve or provide written response for denial.

- c. Once films have been approved, they will not need to be submitted in future years.
5. Any educational television shows and/or digital media, viewed in the classroom and/or during any school sponsored activities, must have a direct tie to the curricular objectives. Activities prior to and after the viewing of content should support the curricular program and require students to utilize the new knowledge. It is recognized that short clips may be the best instructional approach when designing lesson plans.
6. A substitute teacher(s) must follow the lesson plan prepared by the classroom teacher. Substitutes may not choose to show a film, video, or television program of their own choice.
7. Unrated educational commercial films/videos/television/internet clips including media such as Reading Rainbow, social science documentaries, and science series do not need to be submitted for review by the district review committee.

What The CARA and MPAA Ratings Mean

The Classification and Rating Administration (“CARA”) and the Classification and Rating Appeals Board were established by the Motion Picture Association of America, Inc. (“MPAA”) and the National Association of Theatre Owners, Inc. (“NATO”) as part of a voluntary system to provide information to parents to aid them in determining the suitability of individual motion pictures for viewing by their children. CARA is operated as an independent division of MPAA. The CARA Rating Board issues ratings for motion pictures exhibited and distributed in the United States.

CARA assigns one of the following ratings, with the following meanings, to each picture:

(1) G - General Audiences. All Ages Admitted.

A G-rated motion picture contains nothing in theme, language, nudity, sex, violence or other matters that, in the view of the Rating Board, would offend parents whose younger children view the motion picture. The G rating is not a “certificate of approval,” nor does it signify a “children’s” motion picture. Some snippets of language may go beyond polite conversation but they are common everyday expressions. No stronger words are present in G-rated motion pictures. Depictions of violence are minimal. No nudity, sex scenes or drug use are present in the motion picture

(2) PG - Parental Guidance Suggested. Some Material May Not Be Suitable For Children.

A PG-rated motion picture should be investigated by parents before they let their younger children attend. The PG rating indicates, in the view of the Rating Board, that parents may consider some material unsuitable for their children, and parents should

make that decision. The more mature themes in some PG-rated motion pictures may call for parental guidance. There may be some profanity and some depictions of violence or brief nudity. But these elements are not deemed so intense as to require that parents be strongly cautioned beyond the suggestion of parental guidance. There is no drug use content in a PG-rated motion picture.

(3) PG-13 - Parents Strongly Cautioned. Some Material May Be Inappropriate For Children Under 13.

A PG-13 rating is a sterner warning by the Rating Board to parents to determine whether their children under age 13 should view the motion picture, as some material might not be suited for them. A PG-13 motion picture may go beyond the PG rating in theme, violence, nudity, sensuality, language, adult activities or other elements, but does not reach the restricted R category. The theme of the motion picture by itself will not result in a rating greater than PG-13, although depictions of activities related to a mature theme may result in a restricted rating for the motion picture. Any drug use will initially require at least a PG-13 rating. More than brief nudity will require at least a PG-13 rating, but such nudity in a PG-13 rated motion picture generally will not be sexually oriented. There may be depictions of violence in a PG-13 movie, but generally not both realistic and extreme or persistent violence. A motion picture's single use of one of the harsher sexually-derived words, though only as an expletive, Classification and Rating Rules Effective January 1, 2010 8 initially requires at least a PG-13 rating. More than one such expletive requires an R rating, as must even one of those words used in a sexual context. The Rating Board nevertheless may rate such a motion picture PG-13 if, based on a special vote by a two-thirds majority, the Raters feel that most American parents would believe that a PG-13 rating is appropriate because of the context or manner in which the words are used or because the use of those words in the motion picture is inconspicuous.

(4) R - Restricted. Children Under 17 Requires Accompanying Parent or Adult Guardian.

An R-rated motion picture, in the view of the Rating Board, contains some adult material. An R-rated motion picture may include adult themes, adult activity, hard language, intense or persistent violence, sexually-oriented nudity, drug abuse or other elements, so that parents are counseled to take this rating very seriously. Children under 17 are not allowed to attend R-rated motion pictures unaccompanied by a parent or adult guardian. Parents are strongly urged to find out more about R-rated motion pictures in determining their suitability for their children. Generally, it is not appropriate for parents to bring their young children with them to R-rated motion pictures.

(5) NC-17 - No One 17 and Under Admitted.

An NC-17 rated motion picture is one that, in the view of the Rating Board, most parents would consider patently too adult for their children 17 and under. No children will be

admitted. NC-17 does not mean “obscene” or “pornographic” in the common or legal meaning of those words, and should not be construed as a negative judgment in any sense. The rating simply signals that the content is appropriate only for an adult audience. An NC-17 rating can be based on violence, sex, aberrational behavior, drug abuse or any other element that most parents would consider too strong and therefore off-limits for viewing by their children.

From The Classification and Rating Administration,
<https://filmratings.com/RatingsGuide>. 2018.

**Regulation PLEASANTON UNIFIED SCHOOL
DISTRICT**
Pleasanton, California

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