

Instructional Media are meant to support the goals of the curricula. Instructional media selection should, within the context of BH-BL community values, incorporate the following criteria:

- Clear relationship to course curricula
- Developmental appropriateness
- Legal availability according to copyright regulations

Definition of Instructional Media Materials

Instructional media materials will include:

- Full length, industry rated films
- Foreign films (not typically rated)
- Streaming video
- Full length classic films (typically produced prior to industry rating system)
- TV programming that might include documentaries, series, news magazines, made for TV films and others
- Educational videos that do fall into the above categories

Limitations

- Full length PG-13 films will not be shown at elementary
- Full length R films will not be shown at Middle School

Selection of materials and approval process

Process for selection will include evaluation of the three criteria (curricular relationship, development appropriateness and legality) by at least two staff members using the district approval form. Film segments and TV clips must meet the standards of the movie industry for the rating allowed at the instructional level (e.g. a film segment from an R rated film may be shown at Middle School if the entire segment would be rated PG or may be shown with permission slip if the segment would be rated PG-13 according to industry standards).

It is the expectation that teachers will use professional judgment regarding the content of current event media and streaming videos. Any current event media and streaming videos with potentially controversial material should be reviewed administratively before use.

All full length films used for instruction must be approved by the Board of Education.

- Submit approval form to department chairperson/building administrator for approval.
- Building administrator will submit the form to the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction for approval.
- Assistant Superintendent for Instruction submits the form to the Board for approval.

Use of instructional media

Parents have the right to review any instructional materials for their own children. Sufficient notification of PG 13/Foreign films at the Middle School or R/ Foreign Films at the High School must be given parents to afford them the opportunity to preview materials if they wish.

Teachers will provide an alternate assignment for students whose parents have substantiated objections to instructional media based on specific knowledge of the instructional media. Alternate assignments cannot always replicate the original educational experience which the instructional media supplies.

Parental challenges to instructional media shall follow the protocol available for challenging a library text. NY State law gives the local school district the power to select appropriate instructional materials and has consistently affirmed that a parent does not have the right to have instructional materials removed for all children by their challenge.

Permission slips

Teachers are required to have a parent/guardian signed permission slip before any student in Elementary School may view a PG film, in Middle School may view a PG-13/Foreign Film or any High School student may view an R /Foreign Film. The permission slip must be sent to parents at least 10 instructional days before initial viewing. A teacher is required to provide an alternate assignment upon substantiated objection of the parent/guardian in the least obtrusive manner possible within the building circumstances. In electives that consist primarily of media an alternate selection of elective may be discussed in lieu of multiple alternate assignments.

An educational film, streaming video, current events media, or movie clip following the selection process would not require a permission slip unless the segment itself would be rated in the industry rating category that requires permission at a particular instructional level (e.g. a PG-13 segment from an R rated film for Middle School).

(Please access the movie industry ratings at http://www.mpa.org/FlmRat_Ratings.asp)

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