

VAN NUYS MIDDLE SCHOOL FACULTY HANDBOOK

USE OF VIDEOTAPES

Because of the widespread use of videocassette recorders, ease of home videotaping, and availability of rental videotapes and films, the Board of Education, on October 17, 1988, established guidelines for the use of videotapes and films not owned, broadcast, or recommended by the District.

The rating system of the Motion Picture Association of America, established in 1968, is the basis for the Board guidelines.

GUIDELINES

- A. Videotapes or films shown at a school must be relevant to the curriculum being studied and appropriate for the age and maturity level of students being taught.
- B. Videotapes or films shown at a school must use the established District and state criteria for the evaluation of instructional materials, especially with respect to racial and gender stereotyping and the depiction of violence, even in animation.
- C. Videotapes or films must be consistent with accepted standards of professional responsibility and must not reflect advocacy, personal opinion, bias, or partisanship.
- D. Videotapes or films which have not been MPAA rated and are not owned, broadcast, or recommended by the District must be thoroughly reviewed by the instructor prior to their use.
- E. **MPAA NC17** - rated videotapes or films or any unrated material which might fall into this category shall not be shown in an elementary or secondary school classroom or as part of any District activity involving elementary or secondary school students.
- F. **MPAA R** - rated videotapes or films or any unrated materials which might fall into this category may be used in high school grades 9-12 and in middle school grades 7 and 8 with principal and parental written approval prior to the scheduled viewing date and must comply with the school's policy on the evaluation and selection of instructional materials. (See samples of letters.)
- G. **MPAA PG-13** - rated videotapes or films or any unrated materials which may fall into this category may be used in high school grades 9-12 with the prior approval of the principal and must comply with the school's policy on the evaluation and selection of instructional materials. In middle school grades 7 and 8, written parental approval prior to the scheduled viewing date is also required. MPAA PG-13 - rated video-tapes may not be shown in elementary schools or in middle school grade 6.

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- H. **MPAA PG** - rated videotapes or films or any unrated material which might fall into this category may be used in elementary schools or in middle school grade 6 with the prior approval of the principal and parents and must comply with the school's policy on the evaluation and selection of instructional materials. MPAA G - rated videotapes and

teacher review.

- I. If opinions differ over the appropriateness of the materials, the appeal process outlined in Article XXV, Sections 1.0 and 1.2 of the Agreement between the District and UTLA shall be followed.
- J. For ready-reference, the chart below summarizes the key points of this bulletin:

AUDIENCE	MPAA RATING	COMMENTS
Elem. Schools	NC-17, R, and PG-13	May not be shown
	PG	Needs principal and parental approval
	G	Needs teacher review for appropriateness and principal approval
Middle School/Gr. 6	NC-17, R, and PG-13	May not be shown
	PG	Needs principal and parental approval
Middle Schools/Gr. 7&8	NC-17	May not be shown
	R and PG-13	Needs principal and parental approval
	PG	Needs teacher review for appropriateness
High School/Gr. 9-12	NC-17	May not be shown
	R	Needs principal and parental approval
	PG-13	Needs principal approval
	PG	Needs teacher review for appropriateness