

Adopted: February 2005

Revised: \_\_\_\_\_

## **STAPLES MOTLEY ISD #2170 POLICY # 606 USE OF MOVIES AND VIDEOS**

The Board believes that movies, videos, and other audiovisual materials are important tools in the educational process. At the same time, the Board believes that the use of movies and videos should be limited so that they are used legally and appropriately in achieving legitimate educational objectives. Therefore, it is the Board's purpose to have a policy that promotes the appropriate educational use of movies and videos in schools by maximizing classroom instructional time, encouraging parental participation in the educational process, and fostering community values.

### **I. POLICY**

**A.** It is District policy to establish course curriculum to promote an appropriate learning environment. Therefore, the following guidelines represent Board policy regarding how and when movies and videos may be used as an instructional strategy to supplement approved course curriculum.

### **II. COPYRIGHT**

**A. Rented or Privately Owned Movies and Videos:** All District employees must comply with federal copyright laws, as well as publisher licensing agreements. A rented or privately owned movie or video may only be shown in the classroom provided the following "fair use" requirements are satisfied:

### **III. EDUCATIONAL RELEVANCE OF MOVIES AND VIDEOS**

**A.** Except in limited situations as outlined in "IV.B" below, showing of movies and videos will be limited to specific educational purposes. A full-length movie, video, or clip thereof, would then not be shown in school unless its content is relevant to the curriculum and specific educational objectives, is appropriate to the age and maturity of the students, is a productive use of class time and will not cause classroom disruption.

**B.** The use of movie and video tapes for the purpose of entertainment, reward, or incidental learning shall be controlled by the school administration, shall be used in accordance with all copyright and viewing restrictions of law, and shall be scheduled so as not to usurp the regular academic classes of the students. See ISD 2170's Policy 607 (Copyright).

### **IV. REVIEW, APPROVAL, AND PROPER USE OF MOVIES, AND VIDEOS**

**A.** Professional educators bear responsibility to ensure that educational activities and support materials are relevant to the curriculum, appropriate for the age and maturity of students, and consistent with specific educational objectives. The following criteria will be considered:

1. The age, maturity and sophistication of the group of students;
2. The movie or video's MPAA rating or television parental guideline rating;
3. The movie or video's place of production (i.e., United States or foreign);
4. The presence of profanity, sexual content, prejudicial stereotypes, or violence in the movie or video;
5. The course curriculum and educational benefit of the movie or video;
6. The availability of alternate sources to accomplish educational objectives;
7. The feasibility of using a lawfully edited version or specific portions of the movie or video rather than in its entirety without seriously weakening the movie or video's educational value; and
8. The student, teacher, and community interest in viewing the particular movie or video.

**B.** A movie or video with a G, TV-Y, or TV-G rating may be shown to any grade (K-12) with teacher discretion.

## **V. PARENT NOTIFICATION AND WAIVER OF PARTICIPATION REGARDING MOVIES AND VIDEOS**

**A.** For all movies, videos, and clips thereof carrying a TV-Y-7, PG, TV-PG, PG-13, TV-14, or higher rating, or television warning of parental discretion, parents shall receive written notification of the proposed showing at least five (5) school days prior to the movie or video's showing.

**B.** Notification to parents can be (not required) published in course disclosures that are reviewed and signed by parents at the beginning of each school year or semester. Disclosure statements used to provide notice should include a list of all school and District approved films the teacher plans to show during the semester or school year, with approximate dates of the movies' showing. Teachers may also choose to send separate notification to parents for each movie and video that is to be shown.

**C.** If a parent objects to a student's viewing of an approved movie or video and personally communicates such objection to the teacher or administrator, the teacher shall not allow the student to view the movie or video. The teacher shall provide the student alternate assignments or course work similar to that done by students who view the movie or video.

**D.** Parents who do not object within the five (5) school day notice period shall be deemed to grant consent for their child's viewing of a movie or video.

**E.** Nothing in this policy grants parents, students, or school staff the authority to prohibit an approved movie's showing based solely on individual objections. At the same time, while waivers are available, educators should be sensitive to individual complaints and take all reasonable steps to resolve complaints equitably in a manner that would allow the child full participation in the curriculum.

## **VI. APPEALS**

**A.** An educator, student, or parent may seek review of a decision by a teacher to show a particular video/movie. The request to review such a decision will be submitted to the building principal.

**B.** Any party dissatisfied by the principal's decision may appeal the decision, in writing, to the superintendent.

**C.** Any party dissatisfied with the decision of the Superintendent may appeal in writing to the Board of Education

## **REFERENCES**

**17 U.S.C. §101 et. seq.** Copyright Act of 1976.

**20 U.S.C. §5812**