# Guidelines for Choosing Television Programs & Movies for the Classroom

# Academics Division Policy | Original Creation Date: 2005

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When choosing movies or television programs for classroom use, please be reminded of the following guidelines:

* **R-rated and NR** movies/clips and **TV-MA** shows/clips are not to be shown in any classroom, regardless of level or age.
* Movies with **PG or PG-13** and shows with **TV-14** ratings may only be shown with written permission from the parent or guardian. Schools must use the **approved form** when requesting permission (attached).
* All television programs and movies should **correlate to current content standards and the unit/concepts being taught**.
* All television programs and movies shown in the classroom must be viewed **entirely** by the teacher before classroom viewing.
* Principals must approve letters to parents regarding showing PG or PG-13 movies and TV-14 shows. The attached letter must be used and all information is required.

# Ratings Definitions ([www.mpaa.org](http://www.mpaa.org))

## Movie Rating Definitions (Rating Board Definitions)

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| Rating | Definition |
| G  | **General Audiences—All Ages Admitted** |
| PG  | **Parental Guidance Suggested— Some Material May not be Suitable for Children** |
| PG-13 | **Parents Strongly Cautioned—Some Material May be Inappropriate for Children under 13** |
| R | **Restricted—Under 17 Requires Accompanying Parent or Adult Guardian** |
| NC-17 | **No One 17 and Under Admitted** |
| NR | **Not Rated (should be treated like R)** |

## TV Rating Definitions (US Standard)

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| --- | --- |
| Rating | Definition |
| TV-Y  | **Program is well-suited for children between 2 and 6 years old. No foul language, violence or sexual content** |
| TV-Y7  | **Free of profanity and sex. Programs may have some mild violence best suited for children over 7 years old.**  |
| TV-G | **Suitable for general audiences, features little or no violence, sexual content or profanity** |
| TV-PG | **May contain suggestive dialogue (D), foul language (L), sexual content (S) or violence (V). Content is usually negligible** |
| TV-14 | **Not recommended for children under the age of 14. Contain more excessive use of suggestive dialogue (D), foul language (L), sexual content (S) or violence (V).** |
| TV-MA | **Intended for audiences over the age of 17. Contains explicit language, sexual content or violence.**  |

Frequently Asked Questions

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## What if a movie is not rated due to age or because it is educational?

Movies/videos that do not have a rating due to age or educational value will need to be viewed by the teacher and approved by the principal. Many movies/videos do not have ratings if they were purchased before the rating system came out.

## Do Discovery Education videos need to be approved?

No. The state of South Carolina has purchased the Discovery Education Streaming Service. The movies/videos on the site are educational. However, there are age appropriate movies/videos for each level. Any content shown in the classroom should be thoroughly reviewed for age appropriateness.

## Do principals need to approve videos before teachers show them in the classroom?

Principals should review permission to view movie letter before it goes home to parents. All movies/videos shown in the classroom should have academic merit and be written into the teacher’s lesson plans.

## Can teachers show movie clips from YouTube in class?

Teachers should refer to the policy regarding movie clips as well as full length movies. R rated movie clips should not be shown in class under any circumstance.

## Do teachers have to send home the permission to view movie form each time?

If teachers know ahead time what movies/videos they will show for the year, they may send one letter home with the movies and ratings listed. Teachers should still justify in the letter how the movies/videos relate to the content standards.