

MCCPTA Resolution of the Use of Films in Schools

Approved by the MCCPTA Delegates on April 25, 2006

Whereas the administration of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) revised its regulation on the Evaluation and Selection on Instructional Materials and Library Books (Reg. IIB-RA) in the fall of 2005

And Whereas as a result of these revisions, all or part of R-rated films could no longer be shown to any students, all or part of PG-13-rated films could no longer be shown in Elementary Schools and Middle Schools, and all or part of PG-rated films could no longer be shown in Elementary schools

And Whereas many parents, students, and teachers consider the regulation as currently implemented to unnecessarily restrict the use of media in the classroom in a way that has a negative impact on the learning process.

And Whereas MCPS has convened a workgroup to develop guidelines and make recommendations for the implementation of Regulation IIB-RA.

Now therefore be it

Resolved, MCCPTA urges MCPS to implement the following ten recommendations.

1. Films (or other motion media) should be used when their educational value merits the class time devoted to viewing them. They should not be used when the purpose is primarily for entertainment or to keep students occupied.
2. Elementary School students should not be shown all or part of films with a MPAA rating of PG, PG-13, or R except as noted below.
3. Middle School students should not be shown all or part of films with a MPAA rating of PG-13 or R except as noted below.
4. High School students should not be shown all or part of films with a MPAA rating of R except as noted below.
5. When a film does not have a rating, educators should use their professional judgment to determine its appropriateness for the students at a particular level and then treat it accordingly.
6. Educators may show clips or other excerpts of a film whose rating would preclude its use provided that, in the educators' professional judgment, the clips do not contain content that earned the film its MPAA rating.
7. The MCPS Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs should develop guidelines for school-based educators to use when they determine whether the content of a film clip is appropriate for students at a particular grade level.
8. Educators may show part of a film or an entire film that has a rating that would preclude its use provided that the educators have previously informed parents that the film will be shown and received written permission from parents for their children to view the film.
9. Students who are seventeen years or older may grant themselves permission to view an R-rated film, and they may also choose not to view the film.
10. Students whose parents do not choose to permit them to view a film (or students who are seventeen years old and do not wish to view it) should not suffer any negative academic consequences due to their not seeing the film.