

<b>FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS</b>	<b>Reg. No. 400-51</b>
<b>Subject: AUDIO VISUAL MATERIALS</b>	<b>Date of Issue: 3/1/88</b>
<b>Preparing Office: Office of the Superintendent</b>	<b>Amended: 9/7/11</b>

I. Policy

II. Definition

A. Audio visual materials present information in audio and/or visual format and include, but are not limited to: films, videos, broadcast programs, podcasts, online streaming, and user generated content (e.g., mashups and home recorded materials, including downloaded video materials, audio recordings, etc.)

B. The Voluntary Movie Rating System

- 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 - children under 17 require accompanying parent or adult guardian  
**NC-17** no one 17 and under admitted  
**X** no children under 17 admitted (rating no longer used)

Excerpted from *The Voluntary Movie Rating System of the Motion Picture Association of America, Inc.* For additional information: Motion Picture Association of America, Inc., 1600 Eye Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006, (202) 293-1966.

C. For the purpose of this regulation, 'sexually explicit' is:

- material that appeals to the sexually prurient interest
- material that explicitly presents human sexual activity

This definition does not include curriculum materials selected under applicable guidelines in family life, health, and science.

III. Procedure

A. Teachers are expected to select audio visual materials with careful thought given to the authenticity, appropriateness, instructional objective, scope, and technical merit. Audio visual materials are typically produced for commercial purposes, and teachers are expected to preview audio visual materials and consider the age, ability level, and maturity of the intended student audience.

B. Audio visual materials containing violent behavior, offensive language/profanity, or substance abuse should only be shown when narrowly tailored to address a specific instructional goal to age-appropriate audiences.

- C. Audio visual materials originally rated PG, PG-13 or R that have been edited for educational purposes may be used if previewed by a teacher and if the materials are relevant to the overall instructional objective.
- D. Selected clips that do not contain violent behavior, offensive language, profanity and/or substance abuse from PG, PG-13 or R movies, and have been previewed by the classroom teacher, may be used for instructional purposes.
- E. The following rating list, by educational level, will assist the teacher and the principal when selecting audio visual materials for classroom use:

<b>Elementary</b>
R rated audio visual materials – not permitted
PG-13 rated audio visual materials – not permitted
PG rated audio visual materials with teacher preview, class preparation, <b>principal or designee approval and parent/guardian permission</b>
G rated audio visual materials with teacher preview and class preparation

<b>Middle</b>
R rated audio visual materials – not permitted
PG/PG-13 rated audio visual materials with teacher preview, class preparation, <b>principal or designee approval and parent/guardian permission</b>
G rated audio visual materials with teacher preview and class preparation

<b>High</b>
R rated audio visual materials with teacher preview, class preparation, <b>principal or designee approval and parent/guardian permission</b>
G/PG/PG-13 rated audio visual materials with teacher preview and class preparation

NOTE: NC-17 or X rated audio visual materials shall not be used in the classroom.

- F. The approval process requires specific prior permission of the building principal or designee and the parent/guardian of the student viewing the audio visual material.
- G. Parental permission is required before showing the audio visual material as specified by grade level in Section III, E. The content must be detailed on the permission form. The form is located on the FCPS Web site:  
<http://www.fcps.org/student-services/forms>
- H. If a parent or guardian does not provide approval for the student to view the material listed on the permission form, or if the permission form is not returned, alternate and appropriate activities will be provided.
- I. Copyright laws must be observed in the use of recorded materials. (See FCPS Regulation 500-29.)

- J. Audio visual materials, like all book and non-book materials, are subject to Board of Education reconsideration guidelines. Specific parental concerns are to be addressed first to the teacher, the principal, and the curriculum specialist. If unresolved, concerns are then to be detailed on a request for reconsideration. (See FCPS Regulation 500-39.)

Approved:

*original signed by*

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Theresa R. Alban  
Superintendent