

El Dorado Union High School District

Protocols Established by the R-Rated Film Committee
Fall 2003

The R-Rated Film Advisory Committee established the following protocols to govern their recommendations to the Board of Trustees:

Criteria for Recommendations

The following questions shall be used to establish the criteria for recommending the adoption of a film:

1. Does this film have educational merit?
2. Does this film have artistic merit/historical accuracy/insights?
3. Does this film align with our standards of decency?
4. Does this film address course standards?
5. Does this film balance educational value/power with the possibility of being offensive?
6. Is this film a significant instructional tool?
7. Is the film grade-level appropriate?
8. Are there elements of gratuitous sex, language or violence?

Decision-Making Process

Decisions shall be reached by consensus. If a consensus is not possible, a majority vote shall determine a recommendation. A minority report may be submitted along with the recommendation.

Appeals to Recommendations

Staff may attach a dissenting or challenging opinion to the committee's recommendation to the Board of Trustees. Staff may also present their concern directly to the Board. Only committee members may author a minority report, because the recommendation is coming from the committee. If a film is NOT recommended, it may be resubmitted one-year later for further consideration.

Superintendent's Recommendation

The Superintendent may choose not to recommend a film that is supported by the committee when making his recommendation to the Board of Trustees. The final decision on the approval of films as supplemental instructional materials rests with the Board of Trustees.

Requirements to Show a "Board-Approved" R-Rated Film

Instructional staff must receive POSITIVE parental permission to allow any student to view an approved R-Rated film. An alternative must be made available to students without parental permission, and the principal must be notified of the date that the film will be shown. The Board authorized teachers, working with their principal, to expand the use of approved films to other grade-levels or content areas where the curriculum is aligned with the content of the film. A substitute teacher may NEVER be asked to show a R-Rated film. R-Rated films that have NOT been approved by the Board of Trustees may NOT be shown in the El Dorado Union High School District.

Approval of Films in their Entirety with Conditions for Use

The committee will make a recommendation for the use of the entire film. It may be a more effective use of class time to use a clip from the film. The committee will identify any concerns or conditions for their approval, along with the target grade-level and course that is appropriate for viewing. For a DVD edition, the committee may recommend that specific chapters of the film be edited. There will be a fall and spring semester application window for teachers to submit films for consideration by the committee.