I. Policy

II. Procedure

A. Films, videos, and audio recordings should be selected with careful thought given to their authenticity, appropriateness, scope, interest, organization, and technical merit. Films, videos, and audio recordings should be used only after careful examination. Since many films, videos, and audio recordings were originally produced for commercial purposes, they must be previewed by the teacher with the intended student audience's age, ability level, and maturity in mind.

1. The use of recorded materials, including home-recorded materials, must be consistent with objectives of the curriculum and must be carefully previewed with special attention given to the appropriateness of the content. Careful consideration should be given to the use of recordings (audio or video) containing violent behavior, hard language/profanity, and/or substance abuse. When a parental permission form is required before showing a film/video, content listed above must be detailed on the form. Under no circumstances will recordings containing sexually explicit scenes be used in the classroom. For the purpose of this regulation, sexually explicit is: 1) material that appeals to the sexually prurient interest; and, 2) material that explicitly presents human sexual activity. This definition does not include curriculum materials selected under applicable guidelines in family life, health, and science.

2. Special care should be exercised by the teacher when using materials not rated ("NR") or designated unrated, taped from television, or rented from commercial outlets. Films/videos rated "NC-17" or "X" may not be used in the classroom. The following rating list, by educational level, will assist the teacher and the principal in selecting films/videos for classroom use:

   Elementary
   - No "R" rated films/videos
   - No "PG-13" rated films/videos
   - "PG" with selection, approval process, parent permission
   - "G" with teacher preview and class preparation

   Middle
   - No "R" rated films/videos
   - "PG"/"PG-13" with selection, approval process, parent permission
   - "G" with teacher preview and class preparation

   High
   - "R" rated films/videos with selection, approval process, parent permission
   - "G"/"PG"/"PG-13" with teacher preview and class preparation
The approval process requires specific prior permission of the building principal and the parent of the student viewing the material. The film/video permission form must be issued a minimum of one (1) week prior to viewing. A form for this purpose appears as part of this regulation and also as Appendix B-5, Guidelines for the Review and Evaluation of Instructional Materials - 1993.

3. If a parent or guardian does not provide approval for the child to view the material listed on the permission form, or if the permission form is not returned, alternate and appropriate activities will be provided.

4. Material originally rated "PG", "PG-13", "R", "NC-17", or "X" that has been edited for educational or other uses must be treated as if it carried the original rating.

B. Copyright laws must be observed in the use of recorded materials.
(See Regulation 500-29.)

C. Films, videos, and audio recordings, like all book and non-book materials which are used, 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 Guidelines for the Review and Evaluation of Instructional Materials - 1993, Appendix B-Forms.)

DEFINITIONS:

- 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 children under 17 admitted.
- X - No children under 17 admitted.

Definitions 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.

Approved:

Original signed by

Linda D. Burgee
Superintendent
Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

During the coming weeks your child is scheduled to view ________________________.

Frederick County Public School Regulation No. 400-51 indicates that films and videos rated ________________________ for ___________________ requires specific prior permission of the building principal and the parent/guardian of the student viewing the material. This film/video has been previewed by the classroom teacher with the intended student audience’s age, ability level, and maturity in mind. It has been selected for the following reasons:

(e.g. worth of the film/video, instructional objectives which the film/video promotes):

_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Some individuals, however, may find the film/video objectionable due to the following:
(e.g. language, content):

_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING PERMISSION FORM AND RETURN IT TO:

__________________________________ by  ________________________
(Teacher’s Name)  (Date)

Principal’s Approval:____________________________________________

Should you withhold permission, an alternate and appropriate activity will be provided for your child.

My child, ________________________________, □ has □ does not have my permission to view the film/video, ________________________________.

__________________________
Parent/Guardian Signature