

Media Review Team Summary

The media review team, a group of educators and administrators from all school levels in the district, has engaged in review and discussion of a formal complaint of three films shown during the 2022-2023 school year.

After reviewing the films, the team would like to emphasize the importance and necessity of using films as a part of the curriculum. Films are integrated into the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Films allow for the growth and development of critical thinking skills; provide multiple perspectives, viewpoints, and cultural representations; and offer students alternate entry points into content. Films are an integral part of Universal Design for Learning, allowing curriculum access to all students. Films are also a valuable tool in building social emotional skills.

In order to provide more transparency around the process of incorporating media into instruction, the media review team has developed a protocol for effective evaluation and responsible selection of media content.

The media review team recommends the following guidelines for media:

- Should meet high standards of quality in factual content, presentation, artistic and technical quality.
- Should be age-appropriate for the grade and interest level at which they are used.
 - If a film is rated by the MPAA above the age group of the intended audience, the film must be integral to the curriculum and must be approved by the building principal. Once approved, notification will be sent home prior to viewing.
 - In order to get approval from the building principal, [the Media Review for Education Checklist](#) must be completed.
- [The Media Review for Education Checklist](#) will also be made available to all staff members, who are encouraged to complete it as part of their instructional planning.
 - This checklist will be rolled out at a faculty meeting and shared with staff by the building principals. Forms will be available through shared drives or the intranet.
 - This information will be made available to parents on the MERSD website.
- If future films are challenged, the media review team recommends reconvening.

The media review team has watched the three films in question, and, using the Media Review for Education Checklist, makes the following recommendations regarding future viewing:

Film Title	Recommendation	Rationale
<i>The Giver</i>	Recommended for future viewing.	This film directly supports the curriculum and enhances the learning objectives.
<i>The Hunger Games</i>	Not recommended for recreational viewing.	If used in an academic context, this film would be appropriate

		as a learning tool at the recommended age. This film contains content that requires teacher facilitation.
<i>The Witch</i>	Not recommended for future viewing.	The graphic nature of this film outweighs any curricular benefits.