

USD #416 has purchased a performance license for '08-'09 that allows our staff to legally show copyrighted entertainment videotapes or DVD's from most major producers, even if they do not fall under the copyright "fair use" guidelines. The license allows us to show productions from the following producers even if we are not using them as an essential part of our curriculum:

Columbia Pictures
DreamWorks Pictures
Hollywood Pictures
Lionsgate
Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer
Miramax Films
NBC Universal
New Line Cinema
Paramount Pictures
Sony Pictures
Touchstone Pictures
Tri-Star Pictures
United Artists
Walt Disney Pictures
Warner Bros.

(list updated Aug. 2008)

This license was not purchased to encourage use of materials not directly related to the curriculum, but to cover USD #416 and its staff for the rare occasions that these showings occur. It covers outside groups that use our facilities, as well (such as PTA.) Note that video productions from companies other than the ones listed above are NOT covered.

For more information go to: www.movlic.com

What the Law Says

The Federal Copyright Act (Title 17, United States Code, Public Law 94-553, 90 stat. 2541) governs how copyrighted materials, such as movies, may be used. Neither the rental nor the purchase of a videocassette or DVD carries with it the right to use the movie outside the home.

"Fair Use"

In some instances, it is not required to obtain a Movie Copyright Compliance Site License when exhibiting copyrighted materials such as videocassettes or DVDs. This "face-to-face teaching exemption" applies only if:

- A teacher is in attendance and
- The showing takes place in a classroom setting and
- The movie is used as an essential part of the current curriculum being taught

Examples of situations where a Movie Copyright Compliance Site License must be obtained are showings at public libraries, day-care facilities, and entertainment movies being used at schools for After School activities. This legal requirement applies:

- Regardless of whether an admission fee is charged
- Whether the institution or organization is commercial or non-profit
- Whether a federal or state agency is involved

Why is Copyright Infringement a Concern?

The concept of "Public Performance" is central to copyright and the issue of protection for intellectual property. The men and women who work for and in the films' production receive royalties as part of their compensation for their labor and skill. Such royalties are the only way software producers, publishers, writers, composers and many movie workmen are paid for their work.

Copyright Infringement Can Result in Costly Penalties

In addition to clouding one's media compliance reputation, computer software and other areas, copyright infringement can be very costly and is easily avoided.

Copyright Infringers can be Prosecuted

The Motion Picture Association of America and its member companies are dedicated to stopping film and video performance theft in all its forms, including unauthorized public performances. By its very mission, a school should not appear to encourage copyright violation less it be considered a contributory infringer. Copyright theft of computer software, movies, music, plays, etc is not in any public school administration's best interest.