



# Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

Catholic Pastoral Center • 1615 West Washington • Springfield, Illinois 62702-4757  
www.dio.org (217) 698-8500 Fax: (217) 698-0802

## Office for Catholic Schools

February 2019

Regarding movies in the classroom, schools are required to have a license to show a copyrighted movie in a school setting of any kind during or outside of school hours except for perhaps small segments of a movie when used as an example in teaching curriculum. Schools must also have in place a way to seek permission from parents when considering the ratings or content of the movies viewed. Specifically, if without a school license purchased:

*The material must legitimately acquired (a legal copy). It must be used in a classroom or similar place "dedicated to face-to-face instruction".*  
**Not for use as entertainment or reward.** *The use should be instructional.*

Read more details within the annual Principals' Handbook starting on page 59 for more information and specifics of these guidelines. There are several companies that schools can subscribe to for these licenses.

Below is content from our Principals' Handbook. Please refer to the mentioned chart in the handbook.

### INFORMATION FROM DIOCESAN LEGAL COUNSEL COPYRIGHT OF MOVIES OR AUDIOVISUAL MATERIAL

"The following (17 U.S.C. 110) suggests that it is ok for a teacher to purchase and play a video tape to her class. I would caution, however, that it should be done only once and not to other classes or on an annual basis.

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 106, the following are not infringements of copyright:

- (1) performance or display of a work by instructors or pupils in the course of face-to-face teaching activities of a nonprofit education institution, in a classroom or similar place devoted to instruction, unless, in the case of a motion picture or other audiovisual work the performance, or the display of individual images, is given by means of a copy that was not lawfully made under this title, and that the person responsible for the performance know or had reason to believe was not lawfully made; .....
- (2) performance of a non-dramatic literary or musical work or of a dramatic-musical work of a religious nature, or display of a work, in the course of services at a place of worship or other religious assembly;"

### COPYRIGHT AND FAIR USE FOR TEACHERS

The following chart was designed to inform classroom teachers of their rights under the copyright law and copyright guidelines of the United States. Copyright and the notion of intellectual property were written into the Constitution of the United States to promote learning and the useful arts—and were designed to be supportive of the work of educators.

The purpose of copyright protection is repeatedly and mistakenly reported to be for the protection of authors and other intellectual property owners. In fact, has been always for the purpose of benefiting society as a whole and particularly the institutions of education. Learning, or "science" in the language of the Enlightenment and the Constitution, was to be promoted by allowing authors and others rights for a limited time for their work. The first copyright act written into federal law was titled "The Education Act."

Teachers in the classroom make the decisions closest to the field of instruction and it is teachers that have been given the greatest rights—rights that even their districts do not have. This Copyright Chart was designed to inform teachers of what they may do under the law.