

COMPUTER SOFTWARE

The school system will adhere to copyright laws in the area of microcomputer programs. The following procedures represent a sincere effort on the part of the Board to operate legally. We recognize that software piracy is a major problem and that it contributes to higher costs and lessens incentives for the development of good educational programs. Therefore, in an effort to discourage violation of copyright laws and to prevent such illegal activities:

1. The ethical and practical problems caused by software piracy will be taught in all schools in the District.
2. District employees will be expected to adhere to the provisions of public law 96-517, Section 7(b) that amends Section 117 of Title 17 of the United States Code to allow for the making of a back-up copy of computer programs. This states that "...it is not an infringement for the owner of a copy of a computer program to make or authorize the making of another copy or adaptation of that computer program provided:
 - a) that such a new copy or adaptation is created as an essential step in the utilization of the computer program in conjunction with a machine and that it is used in no other manner; or
 - b) that such a new copy and adaptation is for archival purposes only and that all archival copies are destroyed in the event that continued possession of the computer programs should cease to be rightful."
3. When software is to be used on a disk sharing system, efforts will be made to secure this software from copying.
4. Illegal copies of copyright programs may not be made or used on school equipment.
5. The legal or insurance protection of the District will not be extended to employees who violate copyright laws.
6. The purchasing agent is designed as the only individual who may sign license agreements for software for schools in the District. If the material will be used in a school, the principal will also sign the agreement.
7. The principal of each school is responsible for establishing practices which will enforce this policy at the school level.

Cross Reference: Policy GBEF Computer Education
 Policy GBFF Copyrighted Material
 Policy IFAA Reproduction of Copyright Materials
Legal Reference: U.S. Code, Title XVII (P.L. 94-553)

REFERENCE: 06/92

POLICY ADOPTED: 26 Feb 96
POLICY AMENDED: 21 Aug 09