

Software and Copyright Issues

To prevent computer viruses from being transmitted through the School's Equipment, there will be no downloading or copying of any software onto the School's Equipment without prior approval of the School. No files of any kind will be downloaded from the Internet without prior approval of the School. License agreements relating to any software, whether individually owned or owned by the School, will be strictly complied with. Any student or employee desiring to reproduce or store information of any sort downloaded from the Internet should contact the Human Resources to determine whether the intended use is permissible. Copyright laws are very complex and can apply even to information that appears to be freely available for any use. No copyrighted material will be copied illegally on the School's Equipment or transmitted through the School's Equipment.

The Board encourages teachers and staff assigned to the School to make judicious use of appropriate printed materials, sound recordings, and electronic programs in the curriculum but recognizes that Federal law, applicable to public school districts, protects authors and composers from the unauthorized use of their copyrighted work.

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, USC) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials. According to the copyright law, it is illegal to copy or reproduce on disk or paper, by use of school equipment or any other means, materials for which the person reproducing or the School does not own the copyright, unless the written permission of the copyright owner has been obtained, or unless the activity is within some of the limited exceptions to the copyright laws. Copyright infringement carries with it serious civil and criminal penalties under law. Title 17, Section 107, regarding the Fair Use of copyrighted work, reads in pertinent part:

. . . [T]he fair use of a copyrighted work, including such use by reproduction in copies or photo-records or by any other means specified by that section, for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research, is not an infringement of copyright. In determining whether the use made of a work in any particular case is a fair use the factors to be considered shall include B:

1. the purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes;
2. the nature of the copyrighted work;
3. the amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole; and
4. the effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.

