

BP 6162.6

Use of Copyrighted Materials 5-9-2022

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of ensuring that the District complies with federal copyright law. All District staff **and students** shall adhere to the provisions of federal copyright law and maintain high ethical standards in using copyrighted materials. The District shall provide no legal support to any employee who violates copyright law. Willful infringement of copyright law by students or staff may result in disciplinary action.

When selecting appropriate supplementary instructional materials, it is each staff member's responsibility to adhere to the provisions of federal copyright law, Board policy, and administrative regulation.

If a staff member is uncertain as to whether reproducing or using copyrighted material complies with the law, he/she shall contact the Superintendent or designee for clarification and assistance. At no time shall it be necessary for a District employee to violate copyright laws in order to perform his/her duties.

The School Board recognizes that computer software **may be used in classroom instruction.** ~~piracy contributes to higher costs and decreases commercial incentives for the development of quality educational computer software.~~ In circumstances where the interpretation of the copyright law is ambiguous, the District shall determine appropriate use of computer software or online services by referring to the license agreement and/or terms of use statements contained in the software packages or online services used in the District. Computer-related instruction for students and staff shall address the ethical and practical problems caused by software piracy.

The Superintendent shall maintain procedures to discourage violation of all copyright laws and prevent illegal copying activities.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that staff and students receive information and training about copyright laws and the penalties for violating such laws.

Legal Reference:

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 17 - Copyrights