

## Instruction

Board Policy No. 6162.6

Policy Adopted: March 5, 2001

# USE OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIALS

~~All district staff shall adhere to the provisions of the federal copyright law and maintain the highest ethical standards in using copyrighted materials. The district shall provide no legal support to any employee who violates the copyright law. Willful infringement of this law by students or staff may result in disciplinary action.~~

The Board of Trustees recognizes that district staff and students may use a variety of copyrighted materials in the educational program and other district operations. When such materials have not been purchased by the district for the intended use, the Board expects staff and students to respect the protections afforded by federal law to the copyright owners of those materials and respect any limitations by the copyright holder to the license of such materials.

Any literary, musical, dramatic, choreographic, pictorial, graphic, sculptural, audiovisual or motion picture, sound, architectural, or other original work shall be assumed to be a copyrighted work, regardless of whether the work appears in print, audio, video, electronic, or other fixed and tangible form.

Before reproducing a copyrighted material for instructional or other district purposes, a staff member shall determine if the material is in the public domain or if the intended use of the material meets the criteria for fair use or another exception pursuant to 17 USC 107-122. If the material is not in the public domain or no recognized exception applies, the staff member shall seek permission of the copyright holder before using the material.

The Superintendent or designee shall inform staff that inclusion of an attribution citing the author and source of a copyrighted material does not absolve the staff member from the responsibility to either obtain permission or satisfy criteria for fair use or another exception.

If a staff member is uncertain as to whether the intended use of the material meets the criteria for fair use or another exception, he/she shall take the safest course and seek permission from the copyright holder to use the material or, if it is impracticable to obtain permission, shall contact the Superintendent or designee for clarification and assistance.

Students shall not copy or distribute copyrighted works to others. Staff members shall take reasonable precautions to prevent copying or the use of unauthorized copies on school equipment.

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

~~The Governing Board recognizes that computer software 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 by referring to the license agreement and/or policy statements contained in the software packages used in the district. Computer-related instruction for students and staff shall address the ethical and practical problems caused by software piracy.~~

~~Each school using licensed software shall have a signed copy of the software agreement.~~

~~The Superintendent or designee may maintain regulations to discourage violation of all copyright laws and prevent illegal copying activities.~~

*Legal Reference:*

*EDUCATION CODE*

*35182 Computer Software*

*UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 17*