

SOFTWARE COPYRIGHT POLICY

It is the intent of the Augusta School Department to adhere to the provisions of copyright laws in the area of microcomputer software. It is also the intent of the district to comply with the license agreements and/or policy statements contained in the software packages used in the district. Though there continues to be controversy regarding interpretation of the copyright laws, the following procedures represent a sincere effort to operate legally. We recognize that computer software piracy is a major problem for the industry and that violations of copyright laws contribute to higher costs and greater efforts to prevent copying and/or lessen incentives for the development of effective education uses of microcomputers.

1. Under no circumstances shall illegal copies of copyrighted software be made or used on school equipment.
2. District employees will be informed that they are expected to adhere to section 117 of the 1976 Copyright Act, as amended in 1980, governing the use of software (e.g. each building principal will devote one faculty meeting to the subject each year.)
3. When permission is obtained from the copyright holder to use software on a disk-sharing system, efforts will be made to secure this software from copying.
4. The ethical and practical implications of software piracy will be taught to educators and will be included in the curriculum for students at all levels.
5. The principal at each school site is responsible for establishing practices, which will enforce the district copyright policy at the school level.

Adopted: August 16, 1993

Department of Public Schools, Augusta, Maine