

## **COPYRIGHT COMPLIANCE**

### Philosophy

The intent of copyright laws is to provide incentive to “those creative individuals who produce intellectual and artistic works {and who} deserve reasonable reward for their efforts”. The latest technology makes it possible for people to duplicate, use, or re-broadcast original copyrighted works without having to purchase them each time. While this practice is thought to exclude educational, non-profit settings such as schools, there are, nonetheless, restrictions that apply to the school setting. The balance between the rights of the copyright holders and the public need to access copyrighted materials is illustrated in the doctrine of what constitutes “fair use” of copyrighted materials.

It is the intent of the Board of Directors that all employees and students of MSAD #56 adhere to the provisions of federal copyright law. Employees and students who willfully disregard the law and MSAD #56's copyright policy and administrative procedures do so at their own risk. MSAD #56 will not extend legal and/or insurance protection to employees or students for willful violations of this policy. Such violations may also result in disciplinary action. At a minimum, the following steps shall be taken in an effort to discourage violation of the copyright law in the school unit.

- A. Employees shall be informed of this policy/administrative procedure
- B. Notices shall be posted in reasonable proximity of equipment that may be used for copying materials.
- C. Teachers and librarians shall be responsible for informing students about the legal, ethical and practical problems caused by copyright infringement and illegal use of materials.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Public Law 94-553, The Copyright Act of 1976, 17 U.S.C. ~101 et seq.

CROSS REFERENCE: EGAD-R -- Copyright Compliance Administrative Procedure  
What Educators should know  
about Copyright by Virginia Helm

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