Copyrighted Materials and Software

All county office staff shall adhere to the provisions of the federal copyright law, including the Berne Convention for the protection of Literacy and Artistic Work, and maintain the highest ethical standards in using copyrighted materials. The county office 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 and superintendent recognize that computer software piracy contributes to higher costs and decreases commercial incentives for the development of quality educational computer software. The board and superintendent support the rights of software developers by not authorizing or allowing illegal copying or use of copyrighted or licensed materials, regardless of the media (e.g. disks, tape, manuals, audio tapes, etc.). In circumstances where the interpretation of the copyright law is ambiguous, the county office 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 county office. Computer-related instruction for students and staff shall address the ethical and practical problems caused by software piracy.

The superintendent or designee shall maintain regulations to discourage violation of all copyright laws and prevent illegal copying activities. Willful infringement of the law may result in disciplinary action. The legal, ethical, and practical problems caused by plagiarism should be taught to county office of education students.

Legal References:

Education Code, 35182
United States Code, Title 17

ADOPTED: 06/28/93
REVISED: