

SOFTWARE COPYRIGHT POLICY

It is the intent of Mecklenburg County Public Schools to adhere to the provisions of copyright laws in the area of computer software programs. Though there continues to be controversy regarding interpretation of those copyright laws, the following procedure represents a sincere effort to operate legally. We recognize that software piracy is a major problem for the industry and that violations of copyright laws contribute to higher costs and greater efforts to prevent copies and/or lessen incentives for the development of good educational software. Therefore, in an effort to discourage violation of copyright laws and to prevent such illegal activities, the following procedures will be enforced.

1. The ethical problems caused by software piracy will be taught in all schools.
2. Mecklenburg County Public School employees will be expected to adhere to the Provisions of Public Law 96-517, Section 7 (6) which amends Section 117 of Title 17 of the United States Code to allow for the making of a back-up copy of computer programs. This states that "it is not an infringement for the owner of a copy of a computer program to make or authorize the making of another copy or adaptation of that program provided.
 - a) that such copy of adaptation is created as an essential step in the utilization of the computer program in conjunction with a machine and that it is used in no other manner, or
 - b) that such a new copy and adaptation is for archival purposes and that all archival copies are destroyed in the event that continued possession of the program should cease to be rightful."
3. Illegal copies of copyrighted program may not be made or used on Mecklenburg County School Board owned equipment.
4. The legal or insurance protection of the Mecklenburg County School Board may not extend to employees who violate copyright laws.
5. The Director of Technology for Mecklenburg County Public Schools is designated as the individual who may sign license agreements for software for schools in the division.
6. The principal of each school site is responsible for establishing practices which will enforce this policy at the school level.

Violators of copyright laws may face not only a civil suit, but also fines of up to \$100,000 and jail terms of up to 5 years.

I certify that I have read the above policy statement on _____
DATE

SIGNED