

# Copyright Policy

Copyright infringement is the act of exercising, without permission or legal authority, one or more of the exclusive rights granted to the copyright owner under section 106 of the Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). These rights include the right to reproduce or distribute a copyrighted work. In the file-sharing context, downloading or uploading substantial parts of a copyrighted work without authority constitutes an infringement.

Penalties for copyright infringement include civil and criminal penalties. In general, anyone found liable for civil copyright infringement may be ordered to pay either actual damages or “statutory” damages affixed at not less than \$750 and not more than \$30,000 per work infringed. For “willful” infringement, a court may award up to \$150,000 per work infringed. A court can, in its discretion, also assess costs and attorneys’ fees. For details, see Title 17, United States Code, Sections 504, 505.

Willful copyright infringement can also result in criminal penalties, including imprisonment of up to five years and fines of up to \$250,000 per offense.

Internet use, on School time, is authorized to conduct research for educational purposes only. Internet use also creates the possibility of contamination to our system via viruses or spyware. Spyware allows unauthorized people, outside the school, potential access to Student and Staff passwords and other confidential information. The downloading of copy wried software or P2P sharing programs to the School PC's is strictly prohibited. The school utilizes a software specifically designed to protect against the illegal downloading of software, and it is maintained by the IT department.

For legal alternatives for downloading files, please refer to this link <http://www.educause.edu/legalcontent>

Additionally, under no circumstances may Company computers or other electronic equipment be used to obtain, view, or reach any pornographic, or otherwise immoral, unethical, or non-business-related Internet sites. Doing so can lead to disciplinary action up to and including termination.