

**Board of Trustees
Douglas County School District**

PROGRAM

COMPUTER SOFTWARE COPYRIGHT POLICY

It is the intent of the Douglas County School District to adhere to the provisions of copyright laws in the area of microcomputer programs. Though there continues to be controversy regarding interpretation of those copyright laws, the following procedures represent a sincere effort to operate legally. It is recognized that computer software piracy is a major problem for the industry and that violations of computer copyright laws contribute to higher costs and greater efforts to prevent copies and/or lessen incentives for the development of good educational software. All of these results are detrimental to the development of effective educational uses of microcomputers. Therefore, in an effort to discourage violation of copyright laws and to prevent such illegal activities:

1. The ethical and practical problems caused by software piracy will be taught in all schools in the District.
2. When software is to be used on a disk-sharing system, efforts will be made to secure this software through copying.
3. Illegal copies of copyrighted programs may not be used on School District equipment.
4. The legal or insurance protection of the District will not be extended to employees who violate copyright laws.
5. The Superintendent (or his designee) is designated as the only individual who may sign license agreements for software for schools in the District. (Each school using the software should also have a signature on a copy of the software agreement for local control.)

Date Adopted: 04/15/87