

## AMHERST Policy

### EGAD - COPYRIGHT COMPLIANCE

#### *Category R*

The District recognizes that federal law makes it illegal to duplicate copyrighted materials without authorization of the holder of the copyright, except for certain exempted purpose. Severe penalties may be imposed for unauthorized copying or using audio, visual or printed materials and computer software, unless the copying or using conforms to the "fair use" doctrine.

Under the "fair use" doctrine, unauthorized reproduction of copyrighted materials is permissible for such purposes as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship or research.

While the District encourages its staff to enrich the learning programs by making proper use of supplementary materials, it is the responsibility of District staff to abide by the District's copying procedures and obey the requirements of the law. Under no circumstances shall it be necessary for District staff to violate copyright requirements in order to perform their duties properly. The District cannot be responsible for any violations of copyright law by its staff.

Any staff member who is uncertain as to whether reproducing or using copyrighted material complies with the District's procedures or is permissible under the law should contact the Superintendent or a designee. The Superintendent or a designee will assist staff in obtaining proper authorization to copy or use protected materials when such authorization is required.

#### **Legal Reference:**

*US Code Title XVII, Public Law 94-533, United States Copyright Law of 1976.*

**ADOPTED: September 4, 2008**