

Copyright Laws Relevant to Teachers

Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA):

- Enacted by Congress in 2000
- Schools who receive discounted Internet access through the E-rate program have to impose certain restrictions
- Implemented by FCC in 2001 and updated in 2011
- Technology protection measures must be used for Internet access on schools/libraries or else they may not receive the E-rate program's discount
- The filters must block a) child pornography b) pictures that are obscene c) content that is harmful to minors
- A public meeting must be held and reasonable notice must be provided before a school/library adopts this Internet protection policy
- Schools subject to CIPA are required to monitor Internet use of minors
- Schools subject to CIPA are required to educate minors about proper Internet use and behavior
- Schools/libraries subject to CIPA are required to implement an Internet safety policy addressing:
 - Access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet
 - The security of minors when using e-mail and other forms of electronic communications
 - Unauthorized access ("hacking") and other unlawful activities by minors online
 - Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors
 - Measures restricting minors' access to materials harmful to them.

I would need to know this law if a student was caught in violation of this act while using the school's Internet resources. For instance, if a student who was also a minor was using the school's library to view obscene pictures, it would be a violation of this law. It is for the protection of the students as well as protection of the school.

Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA):

- Enacted in 1998 by Congress and became effective 2000; amended 2013
- Requires certain policies to be implemented on operators of websites or online services directed to children under 13 years of age
- Also applies to operators of websites or online services that have actual knowledge that they are collecting personal information online from a child under the age of 13
- Places parents in control over what information is collected from their young children online
- Operators covered by the rule must:
 - Clearly post their privacy policy regarding practices for personal information collected from children
 - Provide notice to parents and obtain consent
 - Give parent option to consent to internal use of child's information, but restricts disclosing information to third parties
 - Provide parents with access to child's personal information
 - Give parents option to stop further use or collection of child's personal information
 - Maintain confidentiality
 - Retain personal information for only as long as necessary and deleting the information

This information is useful because many parents are not even aware of this law. It could be applied in the classroom when a student is instructed by a teacher to sign up for a website, newsletter, etc. where the student would have to give out personal information. The parents would also need to be notified by the school and made aware of the connotations of their child signing up for said newsletter. If the child is under 13 years of age, the parents are given authority over what is given out. However, according to this law all personal information is under protection.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

- Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records
- Applies to all schools that receive funds under applicable programs of the U.S. Department of Education
- Parents hold certain rights with respect to their children's educational records until they are 18 or beyond high school level
- Right to inspect and review the student's education records held by the school (schools are not required to provide copies)
- Right to request correction of records – if school denies the parent/eligible student has a right to a formal hearing
- Schools generally require written consent to release any information
- Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. However, schools must tell parents and eligible students about directory information and allow parents and eligible students a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them.
- Schools must notify students and parents of their rights annually

This would be important to know if records are somehow inaccurate and a parent requests that they be modified. Knowing the protocol and regulations would be very important. Furthermore, there are many stipulations regarding releasing the student's records that are exceptions to the rules.

Fair use of Copyright:

- Copyright laws have been established in order that anyone who creates an original, tangible work deserves compensation and credit
- Almost every original, tangible creation is immediately copyrighted
- What is not protected by copyright laws:
 - works that have not been fixed in a tangible form of expression.
 - titles, names, short phrases, and slogans; familiar symbols or designs; mere variations of typographic ornamentation, lettering, or coloring; mere listings of ingredients or contents.
 - ideas, procedures, methods, systems, processes, concepts, principles, discoveries, or devices -- as distinguished from a description, an explanation, or an illustration.
 - works consisting entirely of information that is common property and contains no original authorship, such as standard calendars, height and weight charts, tape measures and rulers, and lists or tables taken from public documents or other common sources.

I would find it extremely helpful to know information concerning blanket copyright laws very useful in a classroom. Anything that is used for profit can be subject to copyright violation. For instance, if a teacher uses an image that is protected under copyright laws to create a PowerPoint for her class then she sells said PowerPoint on a website such as teacherspayteachers.com for her own personal profit, that is copyright infringement. It could get teachers and schools in a lot of trouble.