

ANNUAL NOTICE REGARDING COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

The use of George Stone Technical College (“GSTC”) computing resources is a privilege extended to GSTC students. In order to maintain this privilege, GSTC students must comply with federal and state law as well as the GSTC and Escambia County School District computer use policies and regulations, including those related to use of copyrighted material and those prohibiting copyright infringement.

Notice: Any GSTC computer account holder who participates in the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material, including unauthorized peer-to-peer file sharing, is subject to the loss of access to GSTC computing resources, disciplinary action by the GSTC Administration, and the following civil and criminal liabilities.

Summary of Civil and Criminal Penalties for Violation of Federal Copyright Laws

What is Copyright Infringement: 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.

What are the Penalties for Copyright 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.

For more information, please see the Web site of the U.S. Copyright Office at www.copyright.gov, especially their FAQ’s at www.copyright.gov/help/faq

GSTC and Escambia County School District Policies Prohibiting Copyright Infringement

It is a violation of the Escambia County School District’s Student Responsible Use Guidelines for Technology to participate in the infringement of the intellectual property rights of others. GSTC students found responsible for violating this policy by participating in the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material, including unauthorized peer-to-peer file sharing, are subject to loss of access to GSTC computing resources, the disciplinary sanctions outlined in the Escambia County School District’s Rights and Responsibilities Handbook, and any civil or criminal liabilities incurred as a result of the violation.

More information regarding the use of GSTC computing resources to participate in the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material, including unauthorized peer-to-peer file sharing, can be found at http://ecsd-fl.schoolloop.com/cms/page_view?d=x&piid=&vpid=1406784849561 and in Section 4.09 of the Escambia County School District Policy Book found at http://www1.escambia.k12.fl.us/Board_Page/Home.html