



Who we are

The Education Legal Alliance of the California School Boards Association is a consortium of school districts, county offices of education and ROC/Ps that voluntarily join together to create a powerful force to pursue and defend a broad spectrum of statewide public education interests before state and federal courts and state agencies.

On behalf of public education and schoolchildren in California, the Alliance becomes involved in litigation when a case or issue has a significant statewide impact on education. The Alliance also gets behind school districts and county offices of education to support their issues – it is the safety net that brings the weight of hundreds of local educational agencies together in support of local issues. The Alliance has saved and gained millions of dollars for schools, while protecting the rights and authority of local governing boards.

The Alliance was formed twenty years ago when it challenged the constitutionality of property tax collection fees statutorily imposed on all school districts. In response to the litigation, but prior to an actual court decision, the Legislature eliminated the fees for school and community college districts. Tremendous cost savings have accrued to every school district each year since the fees were repealed.

Together with school districts and county offices of education, the Alliance will continue to fight the necessary battles to maintain public education as the top priority in California. The Alliance will be there to take on the state's manipulative accounting and budget maneuvers that have reduced funding for public education, and will continue to initiate and participate in litigation in support of California schools and educational programs statewide.

We fight better when we stand together

Visit the Advocacy page at www.csba.org to view ELA updates and the latest Alliance Report.

What we do

- › Initiate litigation as party plaintiffs on issues of statewide importance
- › File friend of the court (amicus) letters and briefs supporting issues of statewide importance
- › Support related legislation
- › Provide information to members on Alliance issues

How we work

Cases and issues are reviewed by a broad-based steering committee of board members, superintendents and education leaders. An advisory committee of noted school law attorneys helps provide legal analysis and recommendations to the Alliance.

How we are funded

The Alliance is funded by contributions from participating CSBA members. The membership fee is calculated as a percentage of CSBA membership dues.