

csba's education legal alliance

Who we are

The California School Boards Association's Education Legal Alliance (ELA) 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 interests before state and federal courts as well as state agencies.

On behalf of public education in California, the ELA becomes involved when a lawsuit or an issue has a significant statewide impact on education. The ELA 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 each other. The ELA has saved and gained millions of dollars for schools, while protecting the rights and authority of local governing boards.

The ELA was formed over 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 Tremendous cost savings have accrued to every school district each year since the fees were repealed.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 ELA will continue to fight the necessary battles to maintain public education as the top priority in California. The ELA 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.

We fight better when we stand together

Visit the website at www.csba.org/Advocacy/EducationLegalAlliance to review the most recent ELA Annual Report and summaries of the lawsuits we are involved in.

What we do

- » Initiate litigation 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 ELA issues

How we work

Lawsuits and issues are reviewed by a broad-based ELA 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 ELA steering committee.

How we are funded

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



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