

CSBA's Education Legal Alliance

# Fighting for public schools

since 1992

## // Who we are

The California School Boards Association's Education Legal Alliance is a consortium of school districts, county offices of education, and Regional Occupational Centers/programs that have voluntarily joined together for the past 28 years to create a powerful force to pursue and defend a broad spectrum of statewide public education interests before state and federal courts, state agencies and the Legislature.

## // What we do

- » Initiate litigation on issues of statewide importance, such as Proposition 98 funding
- » File amicus briefs and letters supporting school districts and county offices of education on issues of statewide importance
- » Advocate for education-related legislation
- » Provide information to members on ELA issues.

## // How we work

An advisory committee of experienced school law attorneys assists in providing legal analysis and recommendations for ELA involvement to the Steering Committee;

ELA involvement is reviewed by a broad-based Steering Committee consisting of school board members, superintendents and statewide education leaders.

## // Recent Activities

### **Hundreds of Millions of Dollars Saved for School Districts:**

In 2019, ELA settled three lawsuits brought against the State – *CSBA v. Cohen I*, *CSBA v. Cohen II*, and *CSBA v. Bosler* – resulting in repayment of \$686 million (in excess of \$110 per student) to California public schools for underpayment in prior years. ELA will continue to fight to ensure public schools receive all the funding they are entitled to in 2020, and to block any manipulation of Proposition 98 funds.

**Amicus Support in special education cases:** ELA's amicus work ensures courts understand the impact their decision will have on districts and county offices of education throughout the state. In *A.W. v. Tehachapi USD*, ELA provided a statewide perspective to the court that requiring a school district to initiate a due process hearing when it believes it is providing FAPE to the student, but the student's parent disagrees, could lead to significant additional legal costs and burdens on school districts. ELA also supported Clovis USD in successfully arguing that settlement of IDEA claims without obtaining an administrative decision on the merits does not exhaust IDEA remedies, and districts do not need to wait until after a lengthy and costly exchange of evidence to assert a failure to exhaust administrative remedies in *A.L. v. Clovis USD*.

## // THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Your annual contribution to **Education Legal Alliance** ensures that we can continue this vital work. For more information about your membership, please contact the CSBA legal department at **(800) 266-3382** or **[legal@csba.org](mailto:legal@csba.org)**.



California School Boards Association, Education Legal Alliance  
3251 Beacon Blvd., West Sacramento, CA 95691  
[www.csba.org/ELA](http://www.csba.org/ELA)

May/2020