



CSBA's Education Legal Alliance

# Fighting for public schools for over 30 years

## // Who we are

The California School Boards Association's Education Legal Alliance (ELA) program is a consortium of school districts, county offices of education and Regional Occupational Centers/ Programs that have voluntarily joined together for the past 30-plus 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 civil litigation and administrative actions
- » File amicus briefs and letters with state and federal courts to support school districts and county offices of education in their litigation
- » Provide funding to ELA members to finance litigation of statewide importance
- » Analyze and challenge legislation and regulations

## // How we work

An advisory committee of experienced school law attorneys assists in providing legal analysis and recommendations for ELA involvement to a broad-based Steering Committee consisting of school board members, superintendents and statewide education leaders.

## // Recent activities

**Ongoing litigation:** Through the ELA program, CSBA continues its longstanding practice of protecting Proposition 98 through a lawsuit filed on Sept. 23, 2024.

- » *CSBA v. State of California:* In this litigation to protect the constitutional integrity of Prop 98, the ELA has challenged language in a 2024 trailer bill that would allow the Department of Finance to reduce the allocation to Prop 98 in years when tax filing deadlines are extended in violation of the constitutional language.

**Amicus support:** The ELA's amicus work ensures courts understand the impact their decisions will have on local educational agencies, and includes:

- » *State of Washington v. U.S. Department of Education:* This is a lawsuit brought by several states, including California, that seeks to require the Department of Education (ED) to restore cancelled grant funding for mental health services. The district court required the ED to restore the grants and to make payments to the grantees, and the ED appealed. The ELA filed an amicus brief advocating for all LEAs in California to be subject to appropriate and fair grant procedures.
- » *J.R. v. Ventura Unified School District:* In a significant victory for the ELA and member Ventura Unified School District, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a district court decision in favor of a student that misinterpreted the two-year statute of limitations for special education cases. In addition to significantly reducing the district's financial liability, the Ninth Circuit's decision overturned a broad reading of the statute of limitations in favor of the student and parents and set a clear standard for lower courts to appropriately apply the two-year statute of limitations in a case in which a parent alleges an LEA fails to find that a student is eligible under a particular eligibility category. The ELA's amicus brief requested that the Court provide this clarity and standard, which will assist LEAs statewide as they navigate special education matters and related litigation and ensure that parents are required to timely file.

## THANK YOU for your support!

Your annual contribution to CSBA helps ensure that this vital work of the Education Legal Alliance continues, as well as CSBA's other legal programs, operations and activities. For more information about your membership, please contact the CSBA Legal Department at **(800) 266-3382** or [legal@csba.org](mailto:legal@csba.org).

