

SCHOOL ATTORNEY/LEGAL SERVICES

The increasing complexity of school operations requires the frequent procurement of legal services. Consequently, the Board will retain an attorney or law firm.

The school attorney must be admitted to the state bar and licensed in the legal profession. In addition, the attorney will either have supplementary training in school-related law and role of the public school in society, or will commit himself or herself to acquiring such knowledge within a reasonable time following appointment.

The school attorney's services will include, but not be limited to:

- * furnishing general legal advice in policy development and on relations with employees, employee organizations, pupils, parents, district residents, and other governmental and nongovernmental groups and agencies;
- * aiding the well-being of the district; and
- * rendering services in impending or actual litigation involving the school system as a whole or any unit, individual, or groups of individuals connected with the schools.

A decision to seek legal advice or assistance on behalf of the school system will normally be made by the Superintendent. Such action will be taken as consistent with Board policy and as it meets an obvious need of the district. It may take place as a consequence of formal Board direction.

Many types of legal assistance will be considered routine and will not need specific Board approval. However, when the administration concludes that an unusual type or amount of legal service may be required, the Board directs the administration to advise it expeditiously and to seek either initial or continuing authorization for such service.