



strength

A CHAIN IS ONLY AS STRONG AS ITS WEAKEST LINK

The Fund serves as a vehicle for school districts to obtain various forms of legal assistance when they are litigating issues of statewide importance. In many cases, the Fund's support of member districts has resulted in the creation of legal precedents that are favorable to public education.

Through the operation of the Fund, participating school districts have a voice in the decisions that shape their future. Such cooperative efforts have returned much more to member districts than the cost of their membership dues. Your district already has benefited from favorable court decisions handed down in various Fund cases. Please join your neighboring districts in contributing to the effort. Working together can make a difference.



benefits

WHAT ARE THE LONG-TERM BENEFITS OF A LEGAL ASSISTANCE FUND?

In this age of increasing judicial influence over public education, the TASB Legal Assistance Fund helps to ensure that legal positions vital to school management are heard at all levels of the state and federal court systems. Significant cases must not be lost through lack of support from the statewide public education community. The Fund is an investment in the future of public education.

For further information, contact:

Legal Services
Texas Association of School Boards
512.467.3610 or 800.580.5345
laf@tasb.org
legal.tasb.org

TASB LEGAL ASSISTANCE FUND



An investment in the future of public education



46121-0913





established

MORE THAN 25 YEARS OF AIDING SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Established in December 1980, the Legal Assistance Fund is administered by a board of trustees made up of officers of the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB), the Texas Association of School Administrators, and the Texas Council of School Attorneys.

The Fund is designed to assist in litigation involving or affecting member school districts. The general purpose of the Fund is to help school districts defend challenges on issues that have a statewide effect on public schools.



assistance

HELP TO MEMBER SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH BRIEFS AND FUNDING

More than three-fourths of all Texas school districts currently participate in the Legal Assistance Fund. To become members of the Fund, school districts make an annual contribution as follows:

- \$200 (ADA 1,599 or less)
- \$350 (ADA 1,600–5,000)
- \$500 (ADA more than 5,000)

In cases of statewide significance, the Fund provides assistance in the form of *amicus curiae*, or “friend of the court,” briefs and occasional financial assistance. The Fund is not structured to provide boards with day-to-day, routine legal assistance, and membership in the Fund will not replace the need for school boards to retain their regular counsel.



success

SUCCESS STORIES

Since its inception, the Fund has filed more than 100 *amicus curiae* briefs on diverse topics affecting public schools. Highly qualified school attorneys from across the state write the Fund’s briefs. These briefs have undoubtedly played an important role in the outcome of several significant court cases affecting public schools. Examples include the following:

- School district immunity (Texas Supreme Court)
- School district liability for student sexual harassment (federal court)
- Employee immunity for student injuries (Texas Supreme Court)
- School district liability for student-to-student violence (federal court)



Legal Assistance Fund

- Student discipline (U.S. Supreme Court, state court)
- Termination of teacher contracts (state court)
- Teacher nonrenewal (TEA, state court)
- Employee benefits (TEA, state court)
- Limiting back-pay awards (state court)
- Board meetings (state court)
- Student attendance (state court)
- District discretion over curriculum (federal court)
- District discretion in grade assignments (TEA)
- Attorney-client privilege (Texas Supreme Court)
- First Amendment issues (federal court)
- Employee grievances (TEA)
- Whistleblower cases (Texas Supreme Court)
- School finance (Texas Supreme Court)

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Membership Form

- \$200 (ADA 1,599 or less) \$350 (ADA 1,600–5,000) \$500 (ADA more than 5,000)
- Enclosed is our district’s check for participation in the Legal Assistance Fund.
- Purchase order number _____
- Bill my credit card: Master Card Visa Amex

Credit Card Number: _____

Cardholder’s Name: _____

E-mail Address (for receipt): _____

District _____

Address _____

City _____

ZIP _____

Expiration Date: _____

Please complete form and submit using one of the following options:

Mail checks and purchase orders to:
 Texas Association of School Boards
 Legal Assistance Fund
 P.O. Box 975112
 Dallas, TX 75397-5112

Fax credit card payments to:
 512.467.3515