



Ohio School Boards
Association

TO: Treasurers
FROM: Sara C. Clark, Chief Legal Counsel
DATE: December 2019
SUBJECT: 2020 LEGAL ASSISTANCE FUND MEMBERSHIP

I am writing to encourage your board to consider becoming a member of OSBA's Legal Assistance Fund (LAF) for 2020. I have sent a similar letter to your board president and superintendent under separate cover.

Since 1977, LAF has provided supportive assistance to boards of education in cases or controversies of statewide significance. Qualifying districts may request and receive:

- ❖ financial assistance to pay for a portion of litigation expenses
- ❖ an amicus curiae brief to be filed on behalf of the district
- ❖ legal research or consultation to assist the district's attorney

In 2019, LAF provided support in several cases involving matters of statewide significance. Among other topics, these recent cases reviewed school district liability and immunity, territory transfers, and the constitutionality of HB 70, which is the bill that made drastic and rapid changes to the operation and authority of Ohio's academic distress commissions. Our support in these cases is making a difference and contributing toward favorable judicial decisions that can have a very positive impact on your district and its students.

As a benefit of LAF membership, you will receive a yearly subscription to *School Law Summary (SLS)*. Four electronic issues will keep you up to speed on major developments in state and federal case law affecting education in Ohio.

Please make joining LAF a priority. Through your support, we can continue to focus on legal issues that impact all Ohio school districts.

To join, please place consideration of joining LAF on your next board meeting agenda. **Enclosed is a sample resolution and an invoice for your convenience.** Please return the top portion to OSBA with a check payable to the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) Legal Assistance Fund.

If you have any questions or if there is anything, we can do to provide assistance, please call Lenore Winfrey, senior administrative assistant of legal services at (614) 540-4000 or (855) OSBA-LAW.

Enclosure.

OSBA leads the way to educational excellence by serving Ohio's public school board members and the diverse districts they represent through superior service, unwavering advocacy and creative solutions.

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OSBA Legal Assistance Fund
Sample Resolution to Participate in the OSBA Legal Assistance Fund

Whereas, the _____ Board of Education wishes to support the efforts of other boards of education to obtain favorable judicial decisions and,

Whereas, the Ohio School Boards Association Legal Assistance Fund has been established for this purpose,

Therefore, the Board hereby resolves to participate in the OSBA LAF for calendar year ____ and authorizes the treasurer to pay the LAF \$250.