

Education Law Research Guide*

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Prepared for Law A584 American Public School Law, Fall 2010, Professor: S. Brown

American Public School Law is a survey course that covers constitutional, statutory, and common law principles common to all public K-12 education systems within the United States. Included in the applicable law are a variety of substantive legal areas—e.g., torts, contracts, administrative law, and constitutional rights. A survey course, by definition, introduces students to numerous topics but does not provide an opportunity for an in-depth analysis of any particular issue. Because of limited time, the course will not cover property issues in public schools, financing of public education, school board governance or collective bargaining.

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*Credit: This guide was adapted from the Georgetown Law Library's [Education Law Resource Guide](#), last updated 11/2009 (by SB).

INTRODUCTION

This research guide includes resources that cover various areas of education law. If you have research questions, please stop by the UW School of Law's Gallagher Law Library Reference Office, email us (<http://lib.law.washington.edu/questions.html>) or call (206) 543-6794.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

When you begin a research project, it is often helpful to have an overview of the topic, to familiarize yourself with the issues, and to learn what words are commonly used to describe issues and concepts within that field. This background research will aid greatly when searching for more specific information later. The following sources are good for background overview.

Treatises, Casebooks & Other Secondary Sources

Materials in the Gallagher Law Library:

- Kern Alexander and M. David Alexander, *The Law of Schools, Students and Teachers in a Nutshell*, 4th ed. (2009) [[KF4119.3 .A43 2009](#) REF].
- American Jurisprudence: Proof of Facts, 3d (AmJur POF or AmJur Proof of Facts) Location: [[KF 8933 .A46 2003](#) REF] (2010 Supp.). Proof of Fact's mission is to "explain and illustrate how to prove particular facts that are essential to a cause of action or a defense." To accomplish this goal, Proof of Fact's articles contain references to cases, statutes, and secondary sources. Topics in the general index include Special Education, Schools & Education, and Teacher.
 - Also available on [Westlaw](#) > AMJUR-POF
- American Jurisprudence: Trials (AmJur Trials). [[KF 8915 .A74](#) REF] (2010 Supp.). AmJur Trials is a 100+ volume series designed to provide an attorney with all the resources needed to try a specific type of case. These resources include: an explanation of the law, tips for the client interview, sample complaints, trial tips, and references to other sources. Like AmJur POF there are numerous articles on Schools & Education, Teachers, and Children & Minors.
 - Also available on [Westlaw](#) > AMJUR-TRIALS
- Causes of Action. (COA and COA2d). Location: [[KF8863 .S5](#) REF] (2009-2010 Supp.).

The articles in COA cover a wide range of causes of action that arise in many different contexts. Each article explores the elements needed to establish a prima facie case for liability and damages or other remedies, introduces major defenses, discusses the proof needed to establish the case, and provides practical guidance, including checklists, for case investigation, discovery, and trial preparation. Each article includes a reported opinion that illustrates how a court has analyzed and applied basic concepts presented in

the article, and, as appropriate, includes sample pleadings and other litigation forms. Citations to carefully selected on-point federal and state primary law support text analysis. Research references provide ready access to more in-depth research. For access purposes, each article is labeled as a separate document in the document list. Topics in the index include Schools & Education, Truancy, and Children.

- Also available on [Westlaw](#) > COA
- Michael A. Olivas, *The Law and Higher Education: Cases and Materials on Colleges in Court* (1989) [[KF4225 .A7 O44 1989](#) CLASSIFIED STACKS].
- Lawrence Siegel, *The Complete IEP Guide: How to Advocate for Your Special Needs Child* (2005) [[KF4209.3.Z9 S57](#) REFERENCE].
- Washington Practice. [[KFW80.W3](#) REFERENCE] (2009-2010 Supp). This multi-volume set covering Washington state law is aimed at the practicing attorney. Topics in the index include School Buses, Schools, Schools & School Districts, and Children & Infants.
 - Also available on [Westlaw](#) > WAPRAC
- Education Law Association, *The Yearbook of Education Law* (annual publication, 1988-present) [electronic resource](#); UW Restricted; and [[KF4102.5 .Y4](#) CLASSIFIED STACKS].

Materials in the UW Main Libraries collection:

- Nathan L. Essex, *School Law and the Public Schools: A Practical Guide for Educational Leaders* (4th ed. 2008) [[KF4119.E84 2008](#)]. UW MAIN LIBRARIES
- Steven G. Poskanzer, *Higher Education Law: The Faculty* (2002) [[KF4225 .P67 2002](#)]. UW MAIN LIBRARIES
- Charles J. Russo, ed. *Encyclopedia of Education Law* (2008) [[KF4117 .E53 2008](#)]. UW MAIN LIBRARIES. Electronic version available -UW restricted.

Materials available to UW Law community through [Summit](#) or [Interlibrary Loan](#)

- Allan G. Osborne, Jr. & Charles J. Russo, *Special Education and the Law: A Guide for Practitioners* (2006) [[KF4209.3 .O82 2006](#)] Available to UW LAW community via Summit.
- Stephen B. Thomas et al., *Public School Law: Teachers' and Students' Rights* (2009) [[KF4119 .M38 2009](#)]. Available to UW LAW community via Interlibrary Loan.

- *** (Recognized by scholars and practitioners as one of the leading authorities in this area). James A. Rapp ed., *Education Law*. Available online through [Lexis](#).
 - Legal > Area of Law - By Topic > Education Law >
 - Chapter R1 Tables of Education Statutes
 - Appendix R3: References to the Internet and World Wide Web > INTERNET REFERENCES

Other titles can be found by searching the UW Libraries Catalog by keywords or subject heading. Some of the Library of Congress subject headings you can use are the following:

- Children with social disabilities - Education - Law and legislation
- Discrimination in education - Law and legislation - United States
- Education - Standards - United States
- Educational accountability - Law and legislation - United States
- Educational change - United States
- Educational Law and Legislation – United States - Cases
- Educational Law and Legislation Washington State
- Educational vouchers - Law and legislation - United States
- Federal aid to education - United States
- School choice - Law and legislation - United States
- School improvement programs - United States
- Students - legal status, laws, etc.
- Teachers - legal status, laws, etc.
- United States - No Child Left Behind Act of 2001
- Universities and colleges - Law and legislation

CURRENT AWARENESS

The following newsletters are great sources for seminar paper topic ideas. Other good sources include Web sites of government agencies, research centers, school reform organizations, advocacy groups, and coalitions and associations.

- The *Chronicle of Higher Education* on [LexisNexis Academic](#) (click Sources tab, enter title in “keywor” box); UW restricted. Also available on [Lexis](#)
 - Provides online searchable full text access to the latest issues of the *Chronicle* and archives back to 1997. Also includes daily news, advice columns, current job listings and discussion forums. Coverage: 1997– present.
- ECS e-Newsletters (Education Commission of the States)

[\[http://www.ecs.org/ecsmain.asp?page=/html/publications/e_newsletters.htm\]](http://www.ecs.org/ecsmain.asp?page=/html/publications/e_newsletters.htm)

The Education Commission of the States publishes three newsletters covering different

education-related topics. You can access the newsletters from the Web site or subscribe to the newsletters and receive them by email. These three newsletters are:

- [ECS e-Clips](#) gives you the day's top education news, as well as a link to *Education Week's* extensive daily news roundup.
 - [ECS e-Connection](#) is a weekly e-mail publication with links to key education information.
 - [Citizenship Matters](#), from the National Center for Learning and Citizenship (NCLC) is a bimonthly newsletter that focuses on ECS' work in improving citizenship education in our nation's schools.
- *Education Week* (Editorial Projects in Education, EPE) [<http://www.edweek.org/ew/index.html>]
EPE is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization based in Washington, D.C., with a mission to help raise the level of awareness and understanding among professionals and the public of important issues in American education. It covers local, state, and national news and issues from preschool through the 12th grade. *Education Week* is American education's newspaper of record. Web-only stories require online subscription.
 - *National School Boards Association Legal Clips* via e-mail [<http://legalclips.nsba.org/>]
A free service providing subscribers with weekly updates on important and interesting school law issues. NSBA also has a blog called *Board Buzz* [<http://boardbuzz.nsba.org/>].
 - [Westlaw](#)'s School Law Bulletin (QNLNSL). School Law Bulletin reports and analyzes the latest developments in education law, covering court decisions, legislative activity, and news items.
 - [Westlaw](#)'s Topical Highlights – Education (WTH-ED). Reports on activity in the federal and state courts, the United States Congress and state legislatures, and federal and state administrative agencies. You can set up a WestClip for regular e-mail delivery.
 - [Westlaw](#)'s other databases: All Databases > Topical Materials by Area of Practice > Education > Law Reviews, Legal Texts & Periodicals

Newspapers are also great sources. Some electronic newspapers sources are accessible here:

- For LexisNexis Academic, Access World News, ProQuest Newspapers, and other databases; UW restricted. See [<http://www.lib.washington.edu/types/enewspapers/>]
- [Lexis](#): News & Business > Combined Sources > Transcripts provides access to full-text transcripts of TV programs such as the Charlie Rose Show, and TV/radio programs from ABC, Al-Jazeera, CBS News, CNBC, CNN, Fox News Network, MSNBC, National Public Radio, etc.
- [Lexis](#)'s News & Business tab and [Westlaw](#)'s Business & News folder include many different databases with different coverage.

Blogs about legal issues, “BLAWGS,” may also provide up-to-date information:

- BLAWGSearch, a directory of legal blawgs, lists 16 [education law-related blawgs](#) (as of September 28, 2010).

JOURNAL DATABASES/INDEXES

The following sources are useful in conducting a preemption check as well as researching your papers.

Law Reviews and Journals

For recent articles, online sources are the most effective. You can use Lexis or Westlaw, for the full text of many (but NOT all) law journals or you can use online indexes from the Library's homepage to get citations for articles in just about all legal journals.

- [Lexis](#) and [Westlaw](#)
Both Lexis and Westlaw include selected education law journals in full text. Generally, they don't have articles before 1985 or so, but coverage varies by journal.

Advantages and Disadvantages: On the plus side, you can access Lexis or Westlaw from anywhere, and after you search, you have the full text of the articles right there. The main disadvantage is lack of coverage: you won't find articles more than 10 or 15 years old, and you won't be searching in ALL journals, just the ones available on Lexis and Westlaw.

- Law Journal Indexes
 - Current Index to Legal Periodicals ([CILP](#)) (current awareness tool)
 - Users receive timely topical access to over 570 legal publications.
 - Items published are organized within 100 relevant subject headings.
 - Complete tables of contents of all journals indexed are included.
 - Citations are in Bluebook form.
 - CILP is available 4-6 weeks before commercial legal periodical indexes such as the Index to Legal Periodicals, the Current Law Index, and the Legal Resource Index.
 - SmartCILP is a fee-based service that provides automated personalized e-mail delivery of the Current Index to Legal Periodicals (CILP).
 - Electronic subscribers continue to get the full text of CILP each week. After setting up a SmartCILP profile, subscribers receive an additional e-mail message each week that focuses only on the subject headings and journals they select. This e-mail message is clearly marked as "SmartCILP" to allow easy identification and review of results
 - Set up your SmartCILP profile [here](#).
 - Index to Legal Periodicals
Citations to articles from over 500 legal publications. Coverage begins in 1978. Available:

- [Lexis](#): Legal > Secondary Legal > Annotations & Indexes > Index to Legal Periodicals
 - [LegalTrac](#) (also known as Legal Resource Index)
Cumulative indexing of approximately 875 legal publications. Also includes law-related articles from more than 1,000 additional business and general interest periodicals. Coverage begins in 1980. Available:
 - [Westlaw](#): LRI
 - [Lexis](#) > Legal > Secondary Legal > Annotations & Indexes > Legal Resource Index
- Major Education Law Journals
 - [Brigham Young University Education and Law Journal](#)
 - [Education and the Law](#)
 - Mar. 1, 1999-18 months ago (embargo = “full text delay due to publisher restrictions”)
 - *Education Policy Analysis Archives* (Arizona State University)
 - [<http://epaa.asu.edu/ojs/>](vol.1, 1993-present)
 - [Journal of Law and Education](#)

Education Databases

- ERIC (Education Resources Information Center) Database
“ERIC is a national information system funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences to provide access to education literature and resources.” The database contains more than 1 million abstracts of education-related documents and journal articles going back to 1966. The database includes articles, reports, papers, monographs on education topics and curricular items. Some 107,000 full-text non-journal documents are accessible electronically in PDF format. The [Thesaurus](#) can help you do a more precise search. Educational reports from ERIC received by GPO Access to articles since October 2002 are available on GPO Access: [<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/eric/index.html>].
ERIC is available:
 - On the Web for free [<http://www.eric.ed.gov/>]
Search keywords then use relevant descriptors. Use quotations for phrase searching.
 - Via UW Libraries via [CSA Internet Database Service or Ebsco](#) (UW restricted)
The search engine is more flexible.

Other Education- and social sciences-related Journals

- See the UW Main Libraries’ list of [journal article sources](#) in the Education resources-specific page for other [recommended resources](#).
- [SSRN: Social Science Research Network](#) includes 10 research networks. It is a good source for journal articles that have yet to be published and working papers. Many articles and papers are available for full-text download.

How to Find Full-Text Articles

If you are using an index that includes only citations, you will need to get the full text of your articles. Here's how:

Search in the law library's catalog, [MARIAN](#), under the title of the journal to see if we have it. If the law library does not, then search in the UW [Main Libraries' catalog](#). Many of the different databases include full-text journal articles, and some are even provided in pdf format. If you need an article from a journal that none of the UW libraries has, fill out an interlibrary loan request through the law library [here](#).

GOVERNMENT/THINK TANK REPORTS

- [GAO Reports](#)
The Government Accountability Office (GAO) is the investigative arm of the U.S. Congress. “Its mission is to support Congress in meeting its Constitutional responsibilities (e.g. oversight, policy, and funding decision) and to help improve the performance and accountability of the Federal Government for the American People.” Most GAO reports are done at the request of members of Congress. They are also available on [Westlaw](#): GAO-RPTS database (1994-present).
- [PAIS International](#) (1999 -) (UW restricted) Indexes public policy and public affairs literature.
- [CQ Researcher](#) (1991-) (UW restricted) Weekly publication covers the most current and controversial issues of the day with complete summaries, insight into all sides of the issues, bibliographies and more .
- Congressional Research Service Reports (CRS Reports) These are non-partisan and in-depth reports produced by the Congressional Research Service, the research arm of the Library of Congress, on a variety of topics for Congress. They are not widely available, but a few libraries have been collecting and making them accessible:
 - Open CRS: Congressional Research Reports for the People
[\[http://openocrs.cdt.org/\]](http://openocrs.cdt.org/)
Is a project of the Center for Democracy & Technology that serves as a centralized location to learn about the Congressional Research Service and search for CRS reports that have been released to the public by members of Congress. Provides report summaries. Includes most reports collected by the [Thurgood Marshall Law Library, University of Maryland](#) and the [University of North Texas Library](#).

LEGISLATION

Major Federal Acts

Source: [States' Impact on Federal Education Policy](#) (SIFEPP)

- Developed by the New York State Archives “to create a comprehensive, accessible, nationwide historical record that documents the impact of states on U.S. education policy since the mid-twentieth century.”

Here is a list of some of the major federal Acts related to education:

- **1984 - Bilingual Education Act amended (in P.L. 98-511)**
- **1987 - McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (P.L. 100-77)**
- **1988 - Bilingual Education Act amended (in P.L. 100-297)**
- **1990 – Americans with Disabilities Act (P.L. 101-336)**
- **1993 – Education of the Deaf Act Amendments (P.L. 103-73)**
- **1994 - Goals 2000: Educate America Act (P.L. 103-382)**
- **1994 – Improving America’s Schools Act (P.L. 103-382)**
- **1997 – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Amendments (P.L. 105-17)**
- **1998 – Rehabilitation Act Amendments**
- **1998 – Workforce Investment Act (P.L. 105-220)**
- **1998 – Reading Excellence Act (in P.L. 105-277)**
- **1998 - Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Amendments (P.L. 105-332)**
- **1998 – Higher Education Amendments of 1998 (P.L. 105-244)**
- **1999 - Education Flexibility Partnership Demonstration Act (Goals 2000; P.L. 106-25)**
- **2001 – No Child Left Behind Act (P.L. 107-110)**
- **2002 – Education Sciences Reform Act (P.L. 107-279)**
- **2004 – Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (P.L. 108-446)**

Most of the education-related statutes are codified in Title 20 (Education) of the United States Code; some are codified in Title 42 (Public Health and Welfare). The Department of Education has a [Policy page](#) that includes legislation, regulations, guidance, and other policy documents for topics from adult education to vocational education.

United States Code

There are many different ways of accessing education statutes in the United States Code:

- Official and annotated codes in print – Reference Area, USC, USCA, USCS [KF62...]
- [Lexis](#): Legal > Area of Law - By Topic > Education Law > Find Statutes, Regulations, & court Rules > Federal
- [Westlaw](#): FED-USCA
- United States Code [<http://uscode.house.gov/>] or [<http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode>]

Proposed Federal Legislation

- Thomas [<http://thomas.loc.gov>] (for the full text and status of pending and recently enacted education legislation, try a word search in the current Congress.)
- [Lexis](#): Legal > Legislation & Politics - U.S. & U.K. > U.S. Congress > Congressional Full Text Bills - Current Congress
- [Congress Daily](#) (UW Restricted) (2000 – 14 days ago) “The twice- daily news service on Congress” contains insider news, a comprehensive calendar of the day's events & exclusive columns on key decision makers & issues.

Federal Legislative Histories

If you want to find the legislative intent of a piece of legislation, you will need to review some or all of the documents created during the process of enacting that piece of legislation. For many federal education laws, there are compiled legislative histories available in the Library. These compilations usually include bills, Congressional Record debates, committee reports and hearings. To find a compiled legislative history, try a keyword search in [MARIAN](#) such as “education” and “legislative history”. For complete legislative history information, read our [legislative history research guide](#). Good starting places for legislative history research include:

- [USCCAN](#) [KF 48 Reference Area, Classified Stacks] (also available on [Westlaw](#), LH database) reprints the reports that West editors consider most important.
- *CIS Legislative History Indexes*: available to the UW community on the web as [LexisNexis Congressional](#), and on [Lexis](#): Legal > Federal Legal - U.S. > Legislative Histories & Materials > US - CIS Legislative Histories
- Thomas [<http://thomas.loc.gov/>] (recent legislation only)

Washington State Legislation

- **Statutes**: Revised Code of Washington ([RCW](#))
 - Some key terms: schools, children, education
 - Annotated Codes:
 - RCWA, available in [print](#) and on [Westlaw](#)

- ARCW, available in [print](#) and on [Lexis](#)
- [Lexis](#) and [Westlaw](#): Washington state-specific statutes, regulations (and cases) databases, 50-state surveys, secondary sources
- Sources from the [Washington Legislature](#)'s web site:
 - [Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee](#)
 - [House Education Committee](#)
 - [Bill Information](#)
 - Find other resources from the Law Library's guide to [Washington State Legal Resources](#) (free internet sources)
- 50-State Information (Education Commission of the States) [http://www.ecs.org/ecsmain.asp?page=/html/statesTerritories/state_map.htm]

Not only does this site provides direct links to state education statutes, state administrative code, state government and legislature Web sites, state education agencies; it also provides up-to-date information on state policy developments. The multi-state reports provide 50-state analysis on various education-related topics, such as No Child Left Behind and charter schools.
- [Westlaw](#): SURVEYS database provides 50 state surveys on a few education law topics. Sources: National Survey of State Laws, Multijurisdictional Survey, and West Surveys. Currency varies.
- [Lexis](#): 50 State Surveys, Legislation & Regulations offers some education law topics in a spreadsheet format. Currency varies.
- National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) [<http://www.ncsl.org>] is a bipartisan organization that serves the legislators and staffs of the nation's 50 states, its commonwealths and territories. The NCSL Web site provides research results on various public policy issues. Sometimes, NCSL provides 50-state analysis.
- [Subject Compilations of State Laws](#) is an annotated bibliography listing journal articles or other publications that survey state laws on various topics. [[KF1 .S93](#) Reference Office].

REGULATIONS

Federal Regulations

The Department of Education promulgates most of the regulations implementing education policies and they are codified in Title 34 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*. Regulations created by the different Department of Education offices are arranged under Subtitle B of Title 34 as follows:

- Chapter I - Office for Civil Rights
- Chapter II - Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Chapter III - Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services
- Chapter IV - Office of Vocational and Adult Education
- Chapter V - Office of Bilingual Education and Minority Languages Affairs
- Chapter VI - Office of Postsecondary Education
- Chapter VII - Office of Educational Research and Improvement

The [*Code of Federal Regulations*](#) can also be found in the following places:

- CFR in print – Reference Area & Classified Stacks [KF70]
- [Lexis](#): Legal > Areas of Law - By Topic > Education Law > Find Statutes, Regulations & Court Rules > CFR
- [Westlaw](#): FED-CFR
- GPO Access [<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/>] (PDF image of print; 1996-present)
- e-CFR [<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/ecfr/>] (text, not PDF; up-to-date to within 2 days)

Federal Register

Daily publications of the activities of federal agencies, proposed and final regulations must be published in the Federal Register.

The [*Federal Register*](#) can be accessed at:

- Current issues – Reference Area [KF70]
- [Lexis](#); Legal > Areas of Law-By Topic > Education Law> Administrative Materials & Regulations > FR-Federal Register
- [Westlaw](#): FED-FR
- *Federal Register* on GPO Access [<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>]

Washington State Regulations

- Washington Administrative Code ([WAC](#)); also on [Westlaw](#) and [Lexis](#)
 - Key term: education

STATISTICS

- National Center for Education Statistics [<http://nces.ed.gov/>]
 - *NCES Electronic Catalog* [<http://www.nces.ed.gov/pubsearch>]
 - *Digest of Education Statistics* [<http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/>]

“provides a compilation of statistical information covering the broad field of American education from pre-kindergarten through graduate school.” (1990-2009)

 - [2009 Digest](#), released in April 2010

- *Common Core of Data* [<http://nces.ed.gov/ccd>]
“a comprehensive, annual, national statistical database of all public elementary and secondary schools and school districts, which contains data that are designed to be comparable across all states.” (1986-present)
- Education Finance Statistics Center [<http://nces.ed.gov/edfin/>]
“contains information about the finances of schools, school districts and states.” (coverage varies by type of information)
- *Education Statistics Quarterly* [<http://nces.ed.gov/programs/quarterly/>]
“offers a comprehensive overview of work done across all of NCES.” (1999-present)
- U.S. Census Bureau [<http://www.census.gov/>]
 - *Educational Attainment* [<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/educ-attn.html>]
“Educational Attainment data are collected annually in the Current Population Survey (CPS) and reported every March for the Nation, with limited detail for states and some metropolitan areas.” (1999-present)
 - *School Enrollment*
[<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/school.html>]
“School Enrollment data are collected annually in the October Current Population Survey.” (1999-present)
 - *Public Elementary-Secondary Education Finance Data*
[<http://www.census.gov/govs/school/>]
“Education finance data include revenues, expenditures, debt, and assets (cash and security holdings) of elementary and secondary public school systems. Statistics cover all states, including the District of Columbia, and are available on an annual basis.” (1992-present)
- *American FactFinder - Education*
[http://factfinder.census.gov/jsp/saff/SAFFInfo.jsp?_pageId=tp5_education]
Statistics gathered and organized by U.S. Census Bureau.
- *LexisNexis Statistical* (UW restricted) has two components: “Tables” which provides the data, “Abstracts” which provides summaries of statistical publications.

USEUL WEB SITES

Government Web Sites

- U.S. Department of Education [<http://www.ed.gov/>]
 - [No Child Left Behind](#)
 - [Research and Statistics](#) provides links to evaluation, reports, and statistics produced by organizations within the Department of Education
 - [Institute of Education Sciences](#)
 - [National Center for Education Statistics](#)
 - [Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development](#)
 - [Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services](#)

- Education Commission of the States [<http://www.ecs.org/>]
 “The Education Commission of the States (ECS) is an interstate compact created in 1965 to improve public education by facilitating the exchange of information, ideas and experiences among state policymakers and education leaders.” It is a non-profit and non-partisan organization representing 49 states (**but not Washington**), three territories, and the District of Columbia. Each member state or territory is represented by seven commissioners - the governor and six other individuals, typically legislators, chief state school officers, state and local school board members. The web site provides state profiles and 50-state comparisons on a wide range of [education issues](#), from accountability to vouchers.
- The Center For Comprehensive School Reform and Improvement [<http://www.csrclearinghouse.org/>]
 Funded by the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education of the U.S. Department of Education, the center has a mission “to help schools organize, plan, implement, and sustain improvement.” The Center has a [School Reform and Improvement Literature Database](#) which contains over 4,000 abstracts, reports, and other information related to school reform and improvement.

Research Centers

- Brown Center on Education Policy at the Brookings Institution [http://www.brookings.edu/gs/brown/brown_hp.htm]
 The center purports to provide a “periodic update on education policy to examine the problems of the American education system and to help delineate practical solutions.” This Web site provides a subject arrangement of Brookings' publications on education. Topics included are: education equality, education finance, education research, education statistics, elementary and secondary education (K-12), higher education, school choice, teachers, testing and assessments.
- Education Policy Center (The Urban Institute) [<http://www.urban.org/education/index.cfm>]
 Publications by the Education Policy Center in pdf and html formats are available on this Web site.
- National Center for the Study of Privatization in Education (Teachers College, Columbia University) [<http://www.ncspe.org/>]
 “The Center provides independent, non-partisan information on and analysis of privatization in education.” [Research publications](#) by the Center are available in full-text.
- Public Agenda [<http://www.publicagenda.org/>]
 A New York-based nonprofit and nonpartisan organization researching and compiling opinion surveys on a wide range of issues, including education [<http://www.publicagenda.org/citizen/researchstudies/education>].

School Reform Organizations

- Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University [<http://www.annenberginstitute.org/>]
 - [VUE](#) (Voices in Urban Education): the journal of the Institute
- Center on Reinventing Public Education (CPRE) (founded in 1993 by the Evans School of Public Affairs, University of Washington, now affiliated with UW-Bothell) [<http://www.crpe.org/>]

The Center “conducts research on major issues in reform and governance, develops new ideas and models, and designs tools and guides for communities that are exploring alternative ways of providing public education.” All CPRE [publications](#) are available in PDF formats.

Advocacy Groups

- American Civil Liberties Union - Stand Up! (Student/Youth Rights) [<http://www.aclu.org/standup/index.html>]
- Center on Education Policy [<http://www.cep-dc.org/>]

The Center on Education Policy advocates for public education and for more effective public schools. The web site includes the full-text of reports published by the Center, [arranged by topic](#).
- Center for Education Reform [<http://www.edreform.com>]

The Center “advocates reforms that produce high standards, accountability and freedom...” The web site includes many of the Center's [publications](#).
- Home School Legal Defense Association [<http://www.hslda.org/Default.asp?bhcp=1>]

“Home School Legal Defense Association is a non-profit advocacy organization established to defend and advance the constitutional rights of parents to direct the education of their children and to protect family freedom.”

Coalitions or Associations

- American Association of School Administrators (AASA) [<http://www.aasa.org/>]
- Council of the Great City Schools [<http://www.cgcs.org/>]

A “coalition of 66 of the nation's largest urban public school systems.” Reports and data compiled by the Council are available on the web site.
- National Education Association [<http://www.nea.org>]

NEA is a professional association representing 3.2 million members working at every level of education, from pre-school to university graduate programs. The web site provides general information about the association and information on recently proposed legislation and policies.

- National School Boards Association (NSBA) [<http://www.nsba.org/>]
“The National School Boards Association is a not-for-profit organization representing state associations of school boards and their member districts across the United States. Its mission is to foster excellence and equity in public education through school board leadership. NSBA achieves that mission by representing the school board perspective before federal government agencies and with national organizations that affect education, and by providing vital information and services to state associations of school boards and local school boards.” The Web site is rich in content including NSBA publications and research guides covering issues that are of concerns to the NSBA: advocacy & legislation, school governance, school board policies, education technology, and school law. Some contents are available only to members.
- Public Education Network [<http://www.publiceducation.org/>]
The Network is “a national association of local education funds (LEFs) and individuals working to advance public school reform in low-income communities across our country.” The Web site provides access to its publications and links to other organizations with an interest in education-related issues.

Other Web Sites

- *Brown v. Board of Education* Digital Archive [<http://http://www.lib.umich.edu/brown-versus-board-education/index.html>]
“contains documents and images which chronicle events surrounding this historically significant case up to the present.”
- Campus Legal Information Clearinghouse (The American Council of Education and the Catholic University of America) [<http://counsel.cua.edu/>]
The web site provides summaries of federal laws related to higher education and examples of Innovative Compliance Practices from other schools.
- U.S. Charter Schools [http://www.uscharterschools.org/pub/uscs_docs/index.htm]
Initially developed by “individuals in the charter school movement from across the country with generous support of the US Department of Education, this site is currently supported by a consortium of organizations interested in providing accurate information and promising practices about and for charter schools.”
- Wrightslaw [<http://www.wrightslaw.com>]
Created and maintained by an attorney who represents children with special needs, this web site is full of useful information, including legislation, court decisions and briefs related to special education.