



WHITTED + TAKIFF + HANSEN LLC

QUARTERLY E-NEWSLETTER

January – March 2017

LEGAL UPDATES

March 2017

- A new House Bill, HB 3489, would allow parents/guardians of special education students the option to enroll their child into a school district in which the child was previously enrolled (if located within the same county) if granted permission by the resident school district.
- The National School Boards Association has published an updated [Transgender Students in Schools](#) guidance document, which includes updated legal rulings and President Trump's February 2017 revocation of previous guidance created by former President Obama's administration.
- A pending Illinois House Bill, HB 826, would prohibit school social workers from providing services outside of their employment to any students with the school district, and makes a specific recommendation for a student to social worker ratio of 250 to 1.

February 2017

- A newly pending Illinois House Bill 1779 (focusing on disciplinary measures in schools) would prohibit the arrest or citation of a student for a criminal offense committed during school hours on school grounds, in school vehicles or at school activities. The act instead encourages the use of school psychologists, social workers and other non-punitive measures, to more appropriately respond to disciplinary incidents.
- A proposed Senate Bill, SB 1483, would alter a school district's deadline to provide parents inspection and copying rights to their child's school records from 15 school days to 5 business days.
- A new Senate Bill, SB 912, would require mandated DCFS reporters (including all school personnel) to complete 4 hours a year of training to recognize signs of domestic violence.

January 2017

- Illinois' residency statute has been modified (by PA 099-0670), to allow parents to appeal a residency ruling by a school board to the Regional Office of Education.
- Proposed Illinois House Bill 261 would allow school districts to provide housing (rent or mortgage) assistance to a homeless student if the cost is less than paying the transportation costs for the student to attend their district of origin.
- A newly pending Senate Bill, SB 11, would make significant changes to the Teachers' Retirement System, including:

- A \$180,000 salary cap for state-funded pensions,
- A replacement of the current 6% “cap” with the Consumer Price Index (CPI),
- Election of TRS members to chose either a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) or a guaranteed 3% annual increase,
- Option to participate in a 401K Plan, as opposed to the TRS.

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

Date	Title/Topic	Organization
3/29/17	From a Student’s Eyes: Parent/Student Attorneys Discuss Student Experiences Under the Law	Chicago Bar Association
4/29/17	Drafting Legally Compliant IEPs	Everyone Reading Illinois
4/30/17	Top Mistakes Parents Can Avoid at an IEP Meeting	Parenting in Space

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