



445 W. Amelia Street · Orlando, Florida 32801 · (407) 317-3200 · www.ocps.net

June 30, 2022

Statement from the Office of Legal Services Regarding 2022 Camp Legal

The goal of the training sessions offered during 2022 Camp Legal was to address specific topics of interest and importance to our principals and assistant principals. We solicited input from our administrators in April of 2022 in preparation for the trainings. We also considered those topics which would best serve and prepare our school-based administrators with the most current information directly applicable to their day-to-day operations involving both teachers and students. As counsel to this district, we would have been remiss *not* to provide information on HB 7 and HB 1557 during the sessions, which were held on June 20, 22, and 23, 2022. For many of the participants, 2022 Camp Legal was the first opportunity to review the express language of these newly enacted pieces of legislation.

Our School Board, district leadership, and staff have consistently acted in strong support of our LGBTQ+ students, employees, and community. Naturally, our administrators wanted to know how the new laws applied to classroom instruction and educating students. Administrators posed hypothetical questions which were answered tentatively, with a clear message that further written guidance would be provided by the district. However, as it pertains to these particular bills, the session did not strike the right balance between being informative and being practical based on the limited guidance we had at the time of the session.

In hindsight, we caused more confusion than clarity and, for that, we apologize. It was counterproductive to the intended goal of the sessions. Consistent with the Superintendent's statement at this week's School Board meeting, the State's June 27, 2022 Motion to Dismiss in the case styled as *Equality Florida, et al. v. DeSantis, et al.* is found [here](#) and contains some clarity to HB 1557. Moving forward, administrators and instructional staff will be provided with written guidance based on further clarification provided by the Florida Department of Education in conjunction with district staff prior to the beginning of the school year.