



Why Hinshaw? Because Your Legal Strategy Should Support Your Educational Mission

Educational institutions today face legal and operational challenges that span classrooms, boardrooms, and courtrooms. From compliance with ever-changing state and federal mandates to navigating disputes involving students, staff, and third parties, schools and universities need legal partners who understand both the mission of education and the complexity of its administration.

Hinshaw provides comprehensive legal support to public and private educational institutions at every level, including K–12 districts, charter schools, colleges, universities, and education-focused nonprofits. Our team advises on governance, student rights, employment, contracts, investigations, litigation, and regulatory compliance—offering pragmatic guidance grounded in decades of experience.

With a deep bench of attorneys who have served as general counsel, litigators, labor counsel, and outside advisors to education institutions, we bring practical insight to help clients resolve challenges efficiently, maintain community trust, and focus on what matters most: delivering education.

Experience Across the Educational Spectrum: We serve a wide range of institutions—from large urban school districts and private universities to charter networks and rural school systems. Our lawyers understand the governance, operational, and funding pressures unique to each setting.

Responsive, Day-to-Day Counsel: Hinshaw acts as trusted outside counsel for institutions navigating high-stakes matters and everyday decisions alike—delivering efficient, practical advice on issues including policy development, contract negotiation, and student discipline.

Litigation & Crisis Readiness: From employment litigation and civil rights claims to Title IX investigations and crisis response, we help schools manage disputes and protect institutional integrity through proactive planning and strategic defense.

Areas of Focus

Campus Safety, Clery & Crisis Management

We help institutions comply with the Clery Act, develop emergency response protocols, and manage reputational risk during crises. Our team also advises on mental health policies, behavioral threat assessments, and mandatory reporting.

Cybersecurity, Privacy & Data Governance

Our attorneys counsel on FERPA compliance, data privacy, breach response, cybersecurity risk mitigation, and vendor management involving student and employee data.

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Governance & Institutional Strategy

We counsel boards, trustees, and senior leadership on governance best practices, fiduciary duties, open meetings laws, policy development, accreditation standards, and risk management.

Labor, Employment, Immigration & Faculty Relations

We advise schools on the full range of workforce-related legal matters, including faculty contracts, tenure disputes, collective bargaining, employee investigations, and wage and hour compliance. Our team supports clients through employment litigation, labor arbitrations, and the development of personnel policies, handbooks, and internal protocols. We also assist with immigration matters, including obtaining visas for non-citizen faculty and staff. From discrimination and harassment claims to reductions in force and OSHA compliance, we help educational institutions manage risk and maintain strong, legally sound workplace practices.

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Litigation & Investigations

Hinshaw defends educational institutions in federal and state court, before administrative agencies, and in internal investigations. We represent schools in disputes involving negligence, civil rights, employment claims, and contract matters.

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Student Rights & Disciplinary Matters

Our team advises on student discipline, due process, free speech rights, Title IX, special education (IDEA/504), disability accommodations, and grievance resolution. We also represent institutions in student litigation and

administrative complaints.

Title IX & Civil Rights Compliance

Hinshaw provides comprehensive Title IX support—from policy creation and training to investigations and hearing procedures. We also handle compliance with broader civil rights laws, including ADA, Section 504, and FERPA.

Focused Legal Support for Today's Education Leaders

Hinshaw helps educational institutions manage risk, resolve disputes, and serve their communities with confidence. With deep sector experience and a proactive approach, we provide the legal support schools need to meet evolving challenges and continue their mission of learning.

Insights

Employment Law Observer
Sep 15, 2025

Employers Must Comply With Key Changes Made to the Requirements of the Illinois Workplace Transparency Act

Press Release
Aug 1, 2025

David Levitt Elected to the Board of Managers of The Decalogue Society of Lawyers

In The News
Jun 9, 2025

Ian Wagreich Discusses the State of Flux Surrounding Student Visa Revocation Policy Under the Trump Administration

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Related Capabilities

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