

HCSD announces lawsuit filed by anonymous residents and the AHA is being dismissed

In December, 2014, the American Humanist Association and three anonymous plaintiffs filed a lawsuit against the Hall County School District, claiming various violations of the Constitution's Establishment Clause requiring a separation between church and state. Superintendent Will Schofield is announcing today that discussions with plaintiffs involved in the lawsuit against the school district have yielded a dismissal of the suit.

All parties agree it is paramount that the Constitution of the United States is protected and upheld. Furthermore, in a manner similar to the routine training provided to staff in areas such as child abuse reporting and the security of personal records, we agree that routine professional training for staff should include the legal rights and responsibilities of individuals regarding issues related to religion in the public school setting. While public school students are guaranteed wide-ranging religious freedoms, employees' rights are more limited when in their work settings.

The Hall County School District admits to no violations of state or federal laws. The district will continue to hold the expectation that individuals within our organization abide by the laws of our land. The Hall County School District will make no monetary compensation to the plaintiffs. Insurance carriers are negotiating all questions regarding legal fees.

We look forward to focusing our district's limited resources on our fundamental goal -- supporting our local families in developing *Character, Competency, and Rigor for All*.