



Attorney General

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Robert E. Corbin

May 3, 1989

Mr. A. Dean Pickett
Mangum, Wall, Stoops & Warden
222 East Birch Avenue
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Flagstaff, Arizona 86002

Re: I89-033 (R89-036)

Dear Mr. Pickett:

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-253(B), we have reviewed your opinion letter to Darryl Doss, Superintendent of Chinle Public Schools, concerning a county school superintendent's issuance of warrants for school district expenditures.

We concur with your opinion that the county school superintendent may not withhold the issuance of warrants for payment of a properly presented school district voucher 1) to determine whether the school district has followed state procurement laws; 2) to review school governing board minutes; 3) for any reason the county school superintendent deems adequate; or 4) to require school districts to provide additional documentation for matters beyond those stated by statute.^{1/}

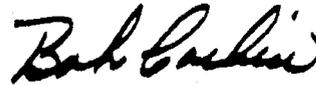
1. A school district is subject to compliance review by the auditor general to determine whether the district spent funds in accordance with its adopted budget as specified in the Uniform System of Financial Records (USFR). Ariz. Att'y Gen. Op. 181-097. See also A.R.S. §§15-271, 15-272 and 15-904.

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We also concur that the county school superintendent lacks authority to require a school district to change its operating procedures so long as the procedures are lawful and that the school district may substitute a computerized voucher form so long as it contains the necessary information and is properly approved by the governing board.^{2/}

We decline to review your opinion that generally, county school superintendents should not find it necessary to withhold payment of a properly presented warrant to request a legal opinion^{3/} and that, most likely, county school superintendents would not be found liable in either their official capacity or personally for holding a warrant for the reasons presented in your opinion.

Sincerely,



BOB CORBIN
Attorney General

BC:LSP:ieb

^{2/} The USFR does not require school districts to use a particular voucher form, although the Auditor General in consultation with the State Board of Education has the authority to require such a form as part of the USFR. See A.R.S. § 15-271. Accord Ariz. Att'y Gen. Op. I63-65-L (the State Board of Education and State Examiner [now Auditor General] may prescribe mandatory voucher forms as part of the Uniform System of Records). Historically, the State Department of Education has provided a nonmandated voucher form for use by school districts.

^{3/} Ariz. Att'y Gen. Op. 85-123, in part, states that the county treasurer may register warrants if the total of levy and nonlevy funds is insufficient; amendments to A.R.S. §15-996 now allow the county treasurer to register warrants only if the cash balance in the levy funds is insufficient.