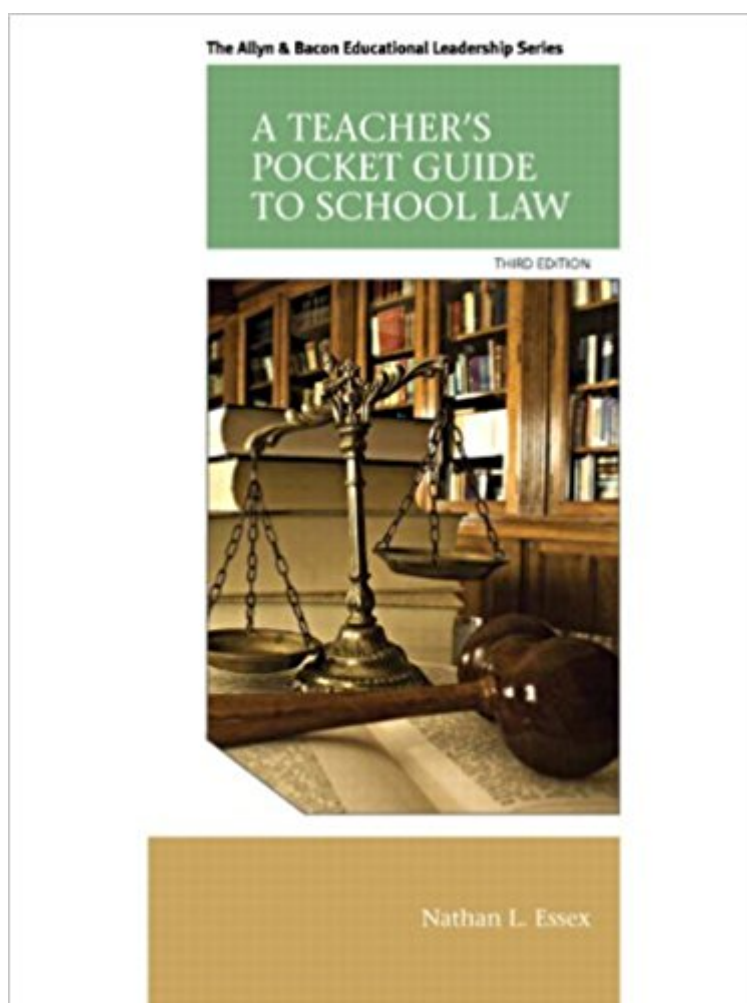


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# A Teacher's Pocket Guide To School Law (3rd Edition) (Allyn & Bacon Educational Leadership)



## Synopsis

School Law and the Public Schools by Nathan L. Essex gives educators and policy makers at all levels practical, easy-to-read, relevant information on the historical and contemporary legal issues affecting the organization and administration of schools in the United States. Virtually every topic of concern to today's educators is covered in a practical, easy-to-read organization and style that's accessible even to those with little or no knowledge of the legal issues affecting public schools. Revised chapters in this new Sixth Edition include recent rulings on religion in public schools, social media, Facebook and Twitter challenges, virtual charter schools, administrators' authority at bus stops, legal aspects of teachers and administrators' evaluation, teacher performance and misconduct, 504 Rehabilitation plans, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Act, violence and tragedy in U.S. schools, procedures for evaluating and responding to threats, natural disasters and school safety, proposed changes to No Child Left Behind by the White House, use of chaperones for field trips, and new application exercises at the end of each chapter.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

An essential resource for all current and future educators and policy makers, this practical guide provides vital information on historical and contemporary legal issues affecting the organization and administration of schools in the United States. Virtually every topic of concern to today's educators is covered in an easy-to-read organization and style that's accessible even to

those with little or no knowledge of the legal issues affecting public schools. Relevant case law rulings, charts, and tables are integrated throughout to give readers concrete knowledge for operating within the boundaries of constitutional, statutory, and case law, and application exercises and case studies show how to apply specific legal knowledge to actual school issues. **NEW to the Sixth Edition:** **NEW!** Review of local school district policies—the connections between local policies, statutory, and case law (Ch. 1). **NEW!** Meditation in schools as a mental health exercise versus meditation for religious purposes (Ch. 2). **NEW!** How community norms impact religious conflicts in schools (Ch. 2) **NEW!** Social media, Facebook, and Twitter—the limits within which school personnel should operate as professionals (Ch. 3). **NEW!** Child abuse reporting—greater guidance and clarity on teachers’ obligations to report suspected cases of child abuse (Ch. 3). **NEW!** Updated information on school safety based on recent tragedies in public schools—providing safer schools that foster effective teaching and learning (Ch. 4). **NEW!** Handling disasters and protecting student safety (Ch. 4). **NEW!** Rehabilitation Act Plans—guidance for school personnel in developing legally defensible plans for students covered under the Act (Ch. 5). **NEW!** Administrative control and bus stops—personnel authority and student safety when waiting to board school buses (Ch. 6). **NEW!** Digitalization and integration of student records—confidentiality and electronic transfer of student data within the legal framework of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (Ch. 7).

Nathan L. Essex is professor of Educational Law and Leadership at the University of Memphis and President of Southwest Tennessee Community College. He received the B.S. degree in English at Alabama A&M University, the M.S. degree in Educational Administration at Jacksonville State University and the Ph.D. degree in Administration and Planning at The University of Alabama. He has held public school teaching and administrative positions prior to completing the doctorate. Essex’s interests include law, educational policy and personnel administration. He has served as consultant for more than 100 school districts and numerous educational agencies. He served as a policy consultant with the Alabama State Department of Education for twelve years and received numerous awards in recognition of his contributions in the field of education. He is the recipient of the Truman M. Pierce Award for Educational Leadership and outstanding contributions which advanced the direction of education in the state of Alabama, the Academic Excellence Award in recognition of professional achievement and academic excellence in the research, service, and teaching of education, Capstone College of Education Society, The University of Alabama; Teaching Excellence Award; Distinguished Service

Award—Who—Who in the State of Tennessee, The University of Memphis Distinguished Administrator of the Year 1995-96, “Educator on the Move,” The University of Memphis; Phi Delta Kappa, the President—award for leadership and service to the community, Youth Services, Inc.; Who—Who in Corporate Memphis, Grace Magazine; and, President Bush—Community Service Award, just to name a few. Essex has published numerous articles, book chapters and newsletters on legal issues. Many of his works appear in The Administrator—Notebook, The Horizon, ERS Spectrum, Principal Journal, Compensation Review, The Clearinghouse, The American School Board Journal, American Management Association, Community College Review, Education and Law, and many other professional journals. Essex has authored a law textbook entitled 200 Legal Questions for Educators which was published by Corwin. Essex has also published a textbook for public school teachers entitled, Pocket Guide to School Law and a booklet on No Child Left Behind which was published by Allyn & Bacon. He is highly sought by educators at all levels to share his knowledge and expertise regarding legal and policy issues that impact educational organizations.

As others have said, this is an excellent book. I picked it as a quick reference/study guide for my Education Law class. Law has always been interesting for me, but I don’t get much use out of books that say things like ‘X decision rendered in (year) was a landmark, upholding X principle (insert legal jargon).’ A couple of my roommates in college were law students, and I understand that junk, because I helped them study sometimes, and we talked about interesting cases they were studying, etc.BUT, when I sit down to read about it, that’s not what I want to know. I want to know what the court fight was about, what the court decision was, what it means, and how it affects my school and the classroom. That’s exactly what Essex does in this book. Most chapters are around 10-15 pages long, cover approximately 5 essential concepts or factors, including all the major cases or a description of the key ideas, identify which law is relevant (usually state or federal, though district or school board policies often come into play), a summary of the key players, roles, principles, or components of the concept being discussed. If an actual court case is discussed, it ends with a summary of the argument, the courts’ decisions, and the final result. And each 1-3 page section finishes with a brief ‘Guide’ which provides a list of important things to consider, when addressing the policy or issue covered (Essex is usually very conservative with his recommendations, but at least you have an idea what needs to be considered). It also includes handy things like a good index, a separate list of all the court cases discussed, appendices that include relevant sections of the Constitution, selected federal statutes, and descriptions of major organizations and how they

can impact a teacher. And finally, Essex is a good writer who makes the topics interesting by minimizing the jargon and focusing on why things are important. Several times, I've found myself reading for a while, after I looked something up, just because he makes stuff interesting.

An excellent resource for teachers and administration alike. It provides mini overviews of law school Personnel need to know. It gives lots and lots of examples. Small and compact, this is a wonderful addition to have when researching School law.

The Pocket Guide is an excellent, affordable resource for all administrators as well as teachers. It is easy to use and offers guidelines to stay out legal difficulties. The price is right and content parallels his textbook "School Law and the Public Schools".

As a citizen I also need to know the rules and law so thank you, Thank you so much to this one.

This book was required for a class. I like that it is a pocket guide, however the text is pretty small! Overall, though I guess that's what you get from a pocket guide!

This was a required text for a masters level class. It's an easy read and well organized.

This book is awesome. It gives clear explanations to real-life situations teachers will have to face during practice. The "Dos and Don'ts" section is a great conclusion at the end of each section. I wish there was a Connecticut School Law pocket guide!

On point! No nonsense writing, straight to the point concerning public school system and laws. This one is a keeper!

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