

DAVID M. DELANEY

PARTNER

CO-CHAIR OF EDUCATION PRACTICE GROUP

305-854-0800
ddelaney@wsh-law.com

David leads the firm's education law group. He represents public and private schools, school boards and colleges and universities throughout Florida in complex transactions, disputes and day-to-day legal needs. He is a Florida Bar Board Certified attorney in Education Law with deep experience serving as general counsel and litigation counsel for public schools. With a thorough understanding of the many challenges faced by elementary and secondary schools, he helps clients anticipate and resolve issues so that they can stay focused on their primary mission of educating children.

David has developed Title IX investigation resources that have been adopted by some of Florida's largest school districts.

David is an active supporter of public education and is a mentor for children represented by Take Stock in Children, a non-profit organization in Florida that helps low-income youth become the first generation in their family to attend college.

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY

PRACTICE AREAS

- Education Law
- Ethics
- Labor and Employment
- Special Counsel to Local Government
- Administrative Claims and Hearings
- Counseling and Risk Management Services
- Employee Training
- Workplace Investigation
- Administrative Proceedings
- Appellate
- Civil Rights and Torts
- Labor and Employment

INVOLVEMENT

- Take Stock in Children, Mentor
- Florida School Board Attorneys Association, Board of Directors
- Florida Bar Education Law Committee, Member
- Florida Bar Education Law Certification Committee, Member
- Federal Bar Association, Member
- Federal District Court - Northern District of Florida, Lawyers Advisory Committee, Member
- Florida Track Club, Member

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- *Florida School Board Attorneys Association*, Outstanding Community Service and Professionalism Award, 2025
- *Super Lawyers Magazine*, Super Lawyer, 2014-2015
- Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Ratings: AV Preeminent, 2011
- *Super Lawyers Magazine*, Rising Star, 2011

PRESS MENTIONS

- *ACPS superintendent search process moves forward with RFP timeline*, Main St. Daily News, April 22, 2026
- *Alachua County School Board approves CFO pick despite concerns*, The Gainesville Sun, December 17, 2025
- *Time will tell": School Board votes 3-2 to approve controversial CFO candidate,* Alachua Chronicle, December 16, 2025
- *Flagler School Board Appoints Furry Vice Chair on 104th Try*, News Daytona Beach, November 19, 2025
- *Alachua County School Board considers timing on Superintendent search*, Main St Daily News, October 15, 2025
- *I'm outraged:' Florida education commissioner speaks at school board meeting, Main St Daily News*, October 8, 2025
- *Alachua County School Board holds workshop to reflect on new public comment policy*, Gainesville Sun, August 14, 2025
- *Alachua County School Board discusses First Amendment rules after a disruptive meeting*,WCJB, August 13, 2025
- *Alachua County School Board revises public comment policy*, Main St. Daily News, August 13, 2025
- *School Board Postpones Approval of Contract for Newberry Charter School*, Alachua Chronicle, June 13, 2025
- *School Board to Appeal Newberry Charter Conversion*, Main St. Daily News, March 12, 2025
- *School Board of Alachua County to Sunset Phone Call Input in Meetings*, Main St. Daily News, February 5, 2025
- *Alachua County School Board eliminates citizen input phone calls*, The Independent Florida Alligator, February 4, 2025
- *School Board Ratifies ESP Contract Amid Teacher's Calls for Higher Raise*, Main St. Daily News, January 22, 2025

Litigation
- Investigations & Audits of Governmental Agencies

ADMISSIONS

Florida, 1997

U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit, 2001

U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida, 1999

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida, 1999

EDUCATION

University of Florida Levin College of Law, J.D. *with honors*, 1997

Baylor University, B.A., 1994

CERTIFICATIONS

Board Certified by The Florida Bar in Education Law, 2013

- *School board welcomes new Superintendent, changes job titles, votes to keep challenged books*, Alachua Chronicle, December 3, 2024
- *Flagler County School Board swears in new members, talks board attorney and board calendar*, Daytona Beach News-Journal, November 21, 2024
- *Alachua County School Board approves contract for interim superintendent*, Gainesville Sun, November 7, 2024
- *"Money well spent": School Board approves $22,275 per month for interim Superintendent*, Alachua Chronicle, November 7, 2024
- *School Board of Alachua County tables superintendent nominations*, Main St. Daily News, October 21, 2024
- *Alachua County School Board fires superintendent on split vote*, Main St. Daily News, October 15, 2024
- *School Board votes 3-2 to fire Superintendent Andrew, effective Nov. 15*, Alachua Chronicle, October 15, 2024
- *Governor's appointment to replace Sally Hunt on Flagler County School Board won't have to live in District 1*, Observer, October 1, 2024
- *Non-reappointment of Deltona principal brings crowd to School Board meeting*, Suncoast News, July 1, 2024
- *Alachua County School Board votes to keep children's book about gender identity on the shelves*, WUFT, March 6, 2024
- *School board votes to keep book amid citizen divide*, Main St. Daily News, March 6, 2024
- *"The negativity has got to stop": Alachua County School Board approves amended contract for Superintendent Andrew on 3-2 vote*, Main St. Daily News, February 7, 2024
- *Flagler school board fires attorney after months of deliberation, missed deadlines*, Daytona Beach News-Journal, January 24, 2024
- *School Board fires Attorney Gavin, hires interim firm*, Palm Coast Observer, January 23, 2024
- *School Board postpones discussion of Superintendent's contract to January 16*, Alachua Chronicle, December 5, 2023
- *Alachua County School Board Elects McGraw as Chair*, Main St. Daily News, November 7, 2023
- *Unions Accuse Agency Of 'About-Face' Over Dues Law*, Law 360, October 31, 2023
- *School Board Members move toward hiring Andrew as permanent Superintendent after heated discussion*, Alachua Chronicle, October, 18, 2023
- *Alachua County School Board weighs Andrew's future*, Main St. Daily News, October, 18, 2023
- *Attorney's report: District HR chief complaints against Peacock are credible*, Observer, June 21, 2023

PRESENTATIONS

- *Webinar: State-mandated ethics training for District School Board Members and School Superintendents*, Weiss Serota Helfman Cole + Bierman, November 6, 2025
- *Legal Updates and the Impact of Artificial Intelligence on K–12 Education*, Florida School Boards Insurance Trust Fall Meeting, October 23, 2025
- *Free Speech, Prayer, and the First Amendment on Campus*, Teachers' Law Symposium, January 25, 2025
- *Navigating First Amendment Rights: Balancing Board Responsibilities and Public Engagement*, FSBA/FADSS 79th Annual Joint Conference, December 5, 2024
- *First Amendment and Section 1983*, International Municipal Lawyers Association Mid-Year Seminar, April 30, 2024
- *Representing the Whole School Board After a Divisive Election: Moving from 'I' to 'We,'* Council of School Attorneys 2023 Spring School Law Seminar, March 31, 2023
- *Direct Employment vs. Contracted Law Firm: The Ins and Outs of Hiring Your Board Attorney*, FSBA/FADSS 77th Annual Joint Conference, December 1, 2022
- *The Perils of Posting, Tips Before Retweeting: Social Media Best Practices for School Board Members*, FSBA/FADSS 77th Annual Joint Conference, November 30, 2022
- *Title IX In the #MeToo Era*, LRP Special Education Conference, January 2019

REPORTED DECISIONS

- *Winslow v. School Bd. of Alachua Co.*, 88 So. 3d 112 (Fla. 2012)