



Home School Legal Defense Association

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SENT VIA CERTIFIED MAIL AND ELECTRONIC MAIL (robert dangler@solancosd.org)

Assistant Superintendent
Solanco School District
121 South Hess St.
Quarryville, PA 17566

Re: Home Education Families and Objectives

Dear official:

By way of introduction, the Home School Legal Defense Association (“HSLDA”) was founded in 1983 to defend, advance, and promote homeschooling. As a public interest advocacy organization, HSLDA works to encourage local agencies and school districts to align their activities with the requirements of state homeschool laws, as well as federal anti-discrimination statutes, for the general benefit of homeschool families nationwide. We currently have over 100,000 families who are members of our association across the nation. These families have chosen to stand with us in this work as we seek to advocate for homeschool freedom and related Constitutional rights.

When necessary, we engage local counsel to provide legal representation for individual member families. Our associated local counsel in Pennsylvania is Mr. James N. Clymer of Lancaster.

This letter does not constitute legal advice to you, your agency, or any person. We encourage you to direct any questions you may have to an attorney who represents you or your school district.

Over the past few weeks, we have fielded numerous inquiries from HSLDA member families in your district regarding questions your district has asked regarding the objectives submitted by home education families in your district, along with their notarized affidavit or unsworn declaration. This appears to us to be outside of the school district’s grant of authority under Pennsylvania law.

Pennsylvania’s home education law states in 24 P.S. § 13-1327.1(b)(1) that the family’s notarized affidavit (or unsworn declaration) must set forth “...an outline of proposed education objectives by subject area...” A few sentences later, the statute states the following: “The required outline of proposed education objectives shall not be utilized by the superintendent in determining if the home education program is out of compliance with this section and section 1327.” *Id.*



These are the sole references to objectives in the home education law. Given the Pennsylvania Legislature's explicit warning to school district superintendents that they "shall not" utilize the objectives to determine a family's compliance with Pennsylvania law, it is, therefore, perplexing that you have questioned multiple home education families about their objectives, particularly if a home education family's notarized affidavit or unsworn declaration already states that the family is going to teach the required academic subjects.

We appreciate the cordial relationship that your district has had with home education families, including our phone conversation last month, and write to you today in that same spirit. Would you be kind enough to let me know that your district will cease to question home education families about their objectives?

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. We trust that this issue will be speedily resolved by your office so that we do not need to retain local counsel to represent any of our HSLDA member families in your district.

If you wish to discuss anything in this letter, I would be happy to talk with you. I can be reached via phone at (540) 338-5600, or via email at will.estrada@hsllda.org.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wid", written in a cursive style.

William A. Estrada
Senior Counsel

cc: James N. Clymer, Esq., HSLDA Associated Local Counsel for Pennsylvania
Christian Homeschool Association of Pennsylvania (CHAP)
Christian Homeschool Association of Pennsylvania (CHAP)
HSLDA Member Families in the Solanco School District