



**Update on School District Liability:
Nine Years After Adoption of Anti-Bullying
Legislation and in the Me Too Era**

Thursday, November 21, 2019
9:30 a.m.- 1:00 pm
Holy Cross Hogan Campus
1 College St. Worcester, MA
01610
(Continental breakfast 9:00 am)



This workshop will explore the changing landscape of School Board liability in the nine years since passage of the Massachusetts Bullying Prevention Law and in the Me Too era. The workshop will:

- Review the evolving legal standard for teacher-on-student harassment from one generally favorable to School Districts under federal law to one that is stricter for Districts under Massachusetts law.
- Consider how student-on-student bullying claims combined with civil rights claims may result in monetary damages against School Districts if liability is found.
- Revisit an overview of School Districts' duties and responsibilities in light of these developments, including to investigate complaints, to implement corrective measures and to make mandatory reports of suspected child

Trainer

JUDY LEVENSON is Principal at Law Office of Judy Levenson, where she specializes in school law and anti-discrimination issues, among other things. She has appeared extensively in state and federal courts, both in trial and in appellate matters. She also has substantial experience successfully representing clients before government agencies such as the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD), the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the U.S. Office for Civil Rights, the U.S. Equal Opportunity Commission and the Massachusetts State Ethics Commission. A significant portion of her practice involves representing municipalities, state and local government employees and elected officials, and school districts.

Judy also has substantial experience conducting investigations of claims of bullying, discrimination, harassment, sexual abuse and title IX violations. Additionally, she provides training on state and federal anti-discrimination and anti-harassment laws, bullying prevention laws, school laws and related best practices. She is included on the MCAD's referral list of trained investigators and its list for trained trainers.

**Participating
Panelists**

**Georgetown School
Superintendent Carol Jacobs
and
Police Representative**

will share their experiences with MOUs and other issues discussed in the workshop.

abuse.

- Highlight the 2018 legal requirement for School Superintendents and Police Chiefs to enter written Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) in order to implement a School Resource Officer (SRO) program to promote safety in schools and offer practical insights of panelists.
- Offer suggestions about best practices for School Districts to mitigate and avoid liability.
- Provide interactive exercises based on actual cases and scenarios in order to apply the principles learned in the workshop.

Who should attend? Superintendents, Principals, Business Managers Title IX Coordinators, HR Directors, Lead Teachers, and SROs.

Attendance at this seminar qualifies the MIIA member for .5% credit under the FY20 MIIA Rewards Program under Public Officials Liability, School Board Liability or Law Enforcement Liability categories.