

SOUTH DAKOTA School Law Notes



SEPTEMBER 2015 | INFO@SWIERLAW.COM | WWW.SWIERLAW.COM

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Q: Under what circumstances may a South Dakota school district display the Ten Commandments?

A: South Dakota law provides the following regarding the display of the Ten Commandments on school district property:

Any object or document containing the Ten Commandments may be displayed in any public school classroom, public school building, or at any public school event, along with other objects and documents of cultural, legal, or historical significance that have formed and influenced the legal and governmental systems of the United States and the State of South Dakota. Such display of an object or document containing the words of the Ten Commandments:

- Shall be in the same manner and appearance generally as other objects and documents displayed; and
- May not be presented or displayed in any fashion that results in calling attention to it apart from the other displayed objects and documents.



Q: May a school district exchange property with the State of South Dakota?

A: **Yes.** A school district and the State of South Dakota may transfer, exchange, or convey land and properties belonging to them and under their jurisdiction upon the terms and conditions agreed upon by the respective governing bodies.

Q: Is school board approval required for every school district contract?

A: **Yes.** A contract is only binding on a school district if approved by the school board at an annual, regular, or regularly called special meeting.



South Dakota Board of Education Adopts New Content Standards in Social Studies

On August 24, 2015, the South Dakota Board of Education adopted new content standards in social studies.

The new South Dakota social studies content standards are organized into four disciplines—history, geography, civics/government and economics—with the goal of making students college, career and civic ready. The new standards are intended to guide the teaching and learning of content, concepts and skills like inquiry, communication, critical thinking and problem solving.

A South Dakota workgroup of K-12 teachers, higher education representatives and other education professionals developed the standards. Click here to read the new standards.

Read More About South Dakota Board of Education Adopts New Content Standards in Social Studies at www.doe.sd.gov



Scott Swier



Brooke Schloss



Jake Fischer



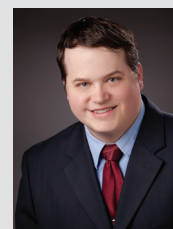
Michael Henderson



Chris McClure



Amanda Work



Bill Blewett

SWIER LAW FIRM, PROF. LLC

AVON OFFICE

202 N. Main Street, P.O. Box 256
Avon, SD 57315

p: (605) 286-3218 | f: (605) 286-3219
toll free: (888) 864-9981

CORSICA OFFICE

240 E. Main Street
Corsica, SD 57328

p: (605) 286-3218 | f: (605) 286-3219
toll free: (888) 864-9981

SIOUX FALLS OFFICE

5024 W. Bur Oak Place, Suite 214
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

p: (605) 275-5669 | f: (605) 286-3219
toll free: (888) 864-9981

WINNER OFFICE

142 E. 3rd Street
Winner, SD 57580

p: (605) 842-3373 | f: (605) 842-3375
toll free: (888) 864-9981

info@swierlaw.com | www.swierlaw.com