

# The Williams Case



## What is it about?

Eliezer Williams, et al. vs. State of California (filed by Sweetie Williams guardian): Plaintiffs rely on State's constitutional duty to ensure that all public school children have equal access to basic educational tools they need to learn.

A class action lawsuit filed in San Francisco County Superior Court in 2000 against the State of California and state education agencies, including the California Department of Education (CDE), on behalf of all students who are attending or will attend public elementary, middle or secondary schools in California and suffer from one or more deprivations of basic educational necessities.

The basis of the lawsuit was that agencies failed to provide public school students with equal access to instructional materials, safe and decent school facilities, and qualified teachers.



Governor Schwarzenegger settled the suit and subsequent legislation charged the County Offices of Education with conducting audits at Deciles 1-3 schools within the first four weeks of the school year.

## How is the Contra Costa County Office of Education involved?

Each year the Contra Costa County Office of Education conducts audits of schools in Contra Costa County meeting specified criteria. A team from CCCOE will be visiting classrooms, counting books and checking the physical condition of schools. Separately, a review of teachers' credentials will be conducted.

## Then what?

The audit team will meet with school officials and a report will be sent to the district and the California Department of Education. The intention is to identify areas of need.



## More Information?

If you would like to learn more about the case, please refer to the California Department of Education website: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/eo/ce/wc/wmslawsuit.asp>