

1977 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. 173 (S.C.A.G.), 1977 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 77-227, 1977 WL 24569

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

Opinion No. 77-227

July 21, 1977

*1 The Honorable J. Leon Rampey
Member
House of Representatives
Route 4, Box 76
Piedmont, South Carolina 29673

Dear Mr. Rampey:

You have inquired as to whether a member of the board of trustees of a school district has the authority to inspect the records of that school district.

It is my opinion that the trustee, as a member of the governing board of the school district, has the authority to require the production of any and all records of the school district pertaining to its affairs for the reason that, as a member of the board, he has the duty and responsibility of managing and controlling the affairs of that school district. The statutory provisions relating to this are set forth in Sections 59–19–10, *et seq.*, of the Code of Laws, 1976, which specifically provide that the management and control of the school districts are under the boards of trustees. The trustees are specifically given the authority, among other powers, to control school property and to generally ‘manage and control local educational interests of the district.’ As indicated in the case of [Rackley v. School District No. 5](#), 258 F. Supp. 676, the board of trustees has the full responsibility of operating the public school systems under the laws of the State.

I have no doubt that access to records is necessary to the trustees in order to fulfill their duties and responsibilities under the mandates of the law.

Very truly yours,

Daniel R. McLeod
Attorney General

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