

1974 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. 71 (S.C.A.G.), 1974 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 3714, 1974 WL 21233

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

Opinion No. 3714

February 14, 1974

***1 RE: Public Education**

Mr. Fred E. Wells
Deputy Superintendent and Business Manager
Sumter School District No. 17
P. O. Drawer 1180
Sumter, S. C. 29150

Dear Mr. Wells:

You have inquired as to whether a private religious educational institution would be allowed to purchase school supplies from your school district at the same rate as the public schools.

Section 4 of Amended Article XI, Constitution of S. C. (1895) provides:

'No money shall be paid from public funds nor shall the credit of the State or any of its political subdivisions be used for the direct benefit of any religious or other private educational institution.'

Private religious educational institutions would thus be prohibited from utilizing public school funds or credits for their direct benefit.

I have forwarded a copy of your inquiry along with a copy of this response to Mr. McEachern's office in order for him to make any desired additional comments.

I trust that this will be sufficient response to your inquiry. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call or write.

Very truly yours,

H. Brent Fortson
Staff Attorney

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