

**EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT AUTHORITY (EAA)
GENERAL COUNSEL**

About the Education Achievement Authority:

The Education Achievement Authority is a new statewide school system that will assume operation of the lowest 5 percent of performing schools in the state of Michigan that are not achieving satisfactory results on a redesign plan or that are under an Emergency Manager. It is designed to provide a new, stable, financially responsible set of public schools that create the conditions, supports, tools and resources under which teachers can help students make significant academic gains. It will first apply to underperforming schools in Detroit in the 2012–2013 school year and then be expanded to include low performing schools throughout Michigan.

For more information, visit <http://detroitk12.org/resources/eas>.

Overview of Role:

Under the direction of the Chancellor, the General Counsel serves as the chief legal officer on all matters related to EAA operation.

The General Counsel provides support and works with a sense of uncompromising cooperation with members of the Chancellor’s Cabinet to ensure a unified effort in the achievement of EAA’s goals and objectives.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Prepare and render legal opinions.
- Represent EAA in litigation matters and other such court proceedings where EAA’s presence is required.
- Supervise all aspects of litigation and administrative actions in which the Authority is named as plaintiff or defendant. These duties include, but are not limited to, the preparation of all pleadings, trial, and appellate briefs; negotiation between parties including certain settlements; the conduct of trial and hearings at the level of original jurisdiction or on appeal; and all other court or hearing appearances in order to represent the interests of the Authority.
- Attend all of the meetings of EAA Board of Directors and EAA Executive Committee and provide counsel to the Chancellor, members of the Board of Directors, and other central administrators, as required.
- Receive all documents incident to the noticing, calling, and conducting of school tax rate increase elections and school bond elections.
- Provide legal advice in the drafting of legal documents, policies and regulations, resolutions, and other documents, upon request. The General Counsel reviews all such documents prior to submission to the Chancellor and the Board.
- Provide legal assistance in the drafting of state and federal legislation proposed by the Authority for presentation to the Michigan State Legislature and United States Congress. Interpret the

impact of legislation on the interests of the Education Achievement Authority, and testify before legislative bodies, as requested.

- Provide assistance, as required, in negotiating collective bargaining agreements and other employment contracts.
- Supervise the delivery of legal services and counseling by the Office of General Counsel to schools and central office administration on legal and administrative issues, as required.
- Recommend employment of outside counsel in specialized areas of the law and offer those recommendations to the Chancellor for consideration.
- Provide training on relevant aspects of the law to staff and administration, as appropriate.
- Performs related duties as assigned.

Qualifications:

Education: Graduation from an accredited school of law. Licensed to practice law in the State of Michigan and federal courts.

Experience:

- A minimum of ten (10) years experience in the practice of law, including substantial responsible litigation and administrative law experience, preferably in the public sector.
- Knowledge of federal and state laws affecting school districts.
- Knowledge of employment and personnel law, preferably, in school settings.
- Administrative and/or supervisory responsibility and experience, in the private or public sector.
- Required skills:
 - Ability to communicate clearly, both orally and in writing.
 - Ability to effectively communicate with staff, the Board, and community groups.
 - Demonstrated leadership and organizational skills.

Additional Qualifications:

- Must have an exemplary attendance record.
- Must be able to verify whether U.S. citizen, resident alien, or otherwise authorized to accept employment in the U.S.
- Must be physically able to perform the duties and responsibilities outlined with or without accommodations.

Reports to: Chancellor

Salary: Salary and incentive-based pay commensurate with experience. Comprehensive benefits package includes medical, dental, vision, and life insurance coverage.

Method of Application: Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and resume to MichiganEAAJobs@gmail.com. Please indicate the position title as the subject. Candidates may be

asked to provide additional materials during the interview process, including official transcripts and letters of reference. Applications will be accepted until the position has been filled.

The Education Achievement Authority does not discriminate against, deny benefits to or exclude participation by any person in its programs, activities, or employment on basis of race, sex, color, national origin, creed, religion or handicap.