

# **"ECASB BUSINESS CONNECTIONS"**







Above: A few of Harris Beach Attorney's who practice Education Law. From top to bottom: Education Team Leader Jeffrey Weiss Esq., Tracie Lopardi Esq., Andrew R. Mark Esq.

# HARRIS BEACH

Harris Beach knows educational institutions rely upon timely legal advice to ensure they remain focused on providing the highest-quality educational and working environments for their students and staff. Its attorneys' active approach has earned them the reputation as a responsive and trusted partner to over 130 educational institution clients throughout the state that routinely look to Harris Beach for practical and insightful legal counsel on matters regarding their operations, employees and students.

Harris Beach attorneys work with superintendents, board presidents, boards of education, and administrators on a diverse set of legal challenges ranging from student discipline and academic affairs, to budgeting and governance, to collective bargaining agreements and employee discipline/ termination. Its education law attorneys also work closely with attorneys in other legal fields to provide advice and representation in specialized areas such as finance and bonding, construction, real estate transactions, tax certiorari matters and environmental litigation

#### FIRM QUICK FACTS

• Founded in 1856

 $\cdot$  Ranked among the country's top law firms by The National Law Journal

- Ranked 207 on the Law360 400 list of largest U.S.-based law firms
- · Selected among the BTI Brand Elite
- More offices across New York state than any other law firm
- $\cdot$  Ranked by U.S. News & World Report as a Top Tier law firm in every major area of law
- · Legal and Consulting Services Offered



Erie County Association of School Boards

# Harris Beach is a 2023-2024 ECASB Platinum Sponsor

# & Longtime sponsor of ECASB







Above: Top to Bottom: One of the many logos used by Harris Beach Attorney's. Harris Beach Attorney's Office Reception area at the Buffalo Office. Harris Beach Attorney's Office Conference room overlooking the city of Buffalo skyline. Reception area for Harris Beach Attorney's in the Larkin Center.

### Services Include

- Board Meeting Issues and Foil Requests
- Communications and Media Relations
- Constitutional Issues
- Discharge / Discipline of Employees
- District Meetings / Budgets
- Employment and Discrimination Laws
- Endowments
- Environmental Matters
  SEQRA and Litigation
- Finance / Bonds
- Intellectual Property
- Litigation
- Negotiations and Collective Bargaining Agreements
- Preventative Policies / Personnel Training
- Real Property Valuation Litigation
- School Construction and Renovation Issues
- Special Education
- Strategic Alliances
- Student Issues
- Teacher Certification and Tenure Issues
- Title IX Compliance

#### Sample of Cases Handled by Harris Beach Attorneys PLLC

-Represented public school district in an appeal to the NYS SED Office, challenging the findings of an impartial hearing officer with respect to the appropriateness of a student with a disability's program and placement. District's appeal granted in its entirety. -Grievance arbitration related to relative seniority of members of the teachers' union & alleged provision of instructional support services. Arbitrator determined that District did not violate collective bargaining agreement. Grievance denied.

-NY Education Law Section 3020-a due process proceeding brought by a public school district against a teacher for inappropriate communications & body language with &/or in the presence of students & disclosing confidential student information in violation of the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act. Employment terminated.

-Parent appeal to Commissioner of Education challenging district's suspension of student for singing a racially offensive song while in school & on a school bus. Appeal dismissed in favor of the school