



Education Compliance Group

Strategic Thinking

Use this sequence of seven questions to guide thinking about some of the legal matters you can't help but encounter as you provide safe access to education for students ready to learn:

1. What is the problem you're trying to solve, or the obstacle you must overcome?

Is it an isolated concern, or have you face it previously?

2. What does the problem or obstacle really mean?

What are its implications?

How does it threaten or present opportunities for your department?

3. What strategies, or approaches, are available to you to solve the problem or overcome the obstacle?

Think "big" here: Do your strategies or approaches include, for example:

Money? _____ More People? _____ More Training? _____
Re-routing? _____ Getting Others to the Table? _____

4. Once you identify available strategies or approaches, think about a particular pathway to solution that each strategy or approach offers. For example (and, these are *just* examples):

What could *money* actually do to solve the problem or remove the obstacle?

If you had more *people*, how would you use them?

If *training* is the issue, who would you train, and how and when would you accomplish it?

If *re-routing* is an approach, how can you employ this strategy to get at your needs?

If you should collaborate with *others*, who do you need, and how can you influence them to talk to you?

How can you zero in on the issues to make most effective use of time?

5. What are the negative, unintended consequences of any of the broad strategies or approaches, or particular pathways? For example, if you determine you'll train drivers regarding identifying and responding to incidents of sexual harassment, what will that mean for payment of overtime as necessary for such training?
6. How can you minimize these negatives? For instance, in the example in number 5, can you conduct training in shifts to be sure no one works more than 40 hours in a given week?
7. What evidence can you look for to determine whether you're moving toward actually solving the problem or overcoming the obstacle?

How will you know if "it's" working?
