
PEI news & updates



April 22, 2021

Upcoming Classes

See full course offering list [here](#).

Unleash Your Genius Mode! with Dave Dubczak

June 15-16, 2021

In this course, learn how to Activate the Genius Modes of both you and your students through the power of intentional creative thinking! Learn how creativity works, and the thought processes and strategies anyone can use to create like a genius!

Learn more and register [here](#).

Uniquely Wired: Creating a (Dyslexia) Friendly Classroom Environment with Elizabeth Hoksbergen

June 24-25, 2021

This course will equip general classroom and special education teachers with the necessary knowledge and tools to design a learning environment that supports the achievement of students with dyslexia, while facilitating the success of every learner.

Learn more and register [here](#).

Ethical Educators with Terry Gladfelter and Bryan Stearns

June 17-18, 2021, or July 19-20, 2021

With the increase in litigation and risk, it is important for educators to know the legal and ethical boundaries while working with students. The National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC), Board of Educational Examiners (BOEE), the Department of Education (DOE), Professional Educators of Iowa (PEI), and individual school districts all have policies which need to be understood, in order to keep oneself from litigation. Case studies and interactive solutions make this a relevant course for all engaged in

Mindfulness Training and Teacher Rights

Many educators across the state have been asking whether mindfulness programs are considered religious or secular for purposes of determining legality in public schools. This question is important because encouraging or requiring students or teachers to engage in a religious or spiritual activity, violates the First Amendment prohibition on government establishment of religion.



The legality of these mindfulness programs is dependent on how they are implemented. While meditation as a form of physical education has never been ruled to constitute inherently impermissible activity, promotion of the religious philosophies behind such practices can become problematic legally.

The law requires a district to reasonably accommodate a student's or an employee's religious beliefs or practices. According to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, "When an employee's religious belief or practice conflicts with a particular task, appropriate accommodations may include relieving the employee of the task."

As educators, it is important for us to understand and to contemplate a variety of belief systems and the academic value they might bring to the classroom. However, in certain circumstances employees of a district may wish to explore a religious exemption based on their civil rights.

Contact PEI if you ever feel uncomfortable performing a task or teaching a philosophy based on sincerely held religious objections.

(This summary is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. You should not take any action based on these materials before consulting with an attorney.)

education.

Learn more and register [here](#).

Save the date!



Annual Conference - August 6

Leadership Seminar - August 7

Celebrate 40 years of PEI and join us for an exciting and informative annual conference.

The PEI Leadership Seminar will be held on the following day, August 7. Participants who attend both days will receive one licensure renewal credit.

[Register today!](#)

Professional Educators of Iowa
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