

February 2022



Security Monitoring
and Identity
Restoration

Discounts for PEI
members and their
family.

[Click for details](#)

New Class Announcements 2022

**March 18-19
Barb Ranck**

**The Enneagram as a
Lens for Understanding
Student Behavior: A
Tool for Increasing
Empathy, Compassion
& Resilience**

April 1-2

A View from the Hill



The Iowa legislature is back in session and so far it has been a busy year for education! PEI is on site and engaged, safeguarding PEI members as well as the teaching profession at large. A couple of the bills we'd like to highlight for you are listed below. Each bill has a link to the actual legislation to read in full.

HF 2148: Teacher Employment Opportunities

This legislation is an important priority for PEI members. We believe if teachers are offered a job at a new school district, they should be afforded an opportunity to resign from their current position so long as they give timely notice. Currently the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners allows teachers to resign any time prior to June 30 without sanction. Based on outdated language, Iowa Code can still allow penalties to educators who abide by this date with fidelity. Some teachers have struggled for release from their contract, even when they provide notice of their departure to an employer as early as April. This legislation would reconcile the law with the current administrative code and allow teachers until June 30 to make important career decisions. Please contact your legislators in support of [HF 2148](#).

HF 2218: Website Filtering

This legislation has been championed by PEI member, Representative Gobble. The bill gives schools a tool in their toolbox and clear-cut approval to ensure students' use of district internet is academically beneficial. Representative Gobble has been pushing this and other valuable priorities to advance Iowa education.

HF 2177: Live Video Feeds of the Classroom - THIS BILL IS DEAD - it did not make it out of committee.

PEI **opposed** this legislation right from the start on grounds it could infringe on the confidentiality of both teachers and students.

SSB 3067: Assistance with Teacher Shortages

Largely because of difficult conditions, we are currently facing crisis level teacher shortages in Iowa. This legislation works to address some of those problems and bring qualified teachers into the classroom. Among other things, this bill expands eligibility for the teach Iowa scholar program. The bill also authorizes the board of directors to adopt a program for student loan repayment to recruit teachers.

HF 2151: Convenience During Background Checks

Under current law, at the outset of their career teachers must be fingerprinted and undergo a background check. For convenience, this

Joe Van Haecke

**Applied Improvisation
in the Classroom**

**April 8-9
Terry Gladfelter
Bryan Stearns**

Ethical Educators

**April 14-15
Barb Ranck**

**The Enneagram as a
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[Click here for
more information](#)

peiowa.org

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BOEE

**Iowa Dept. of
Education**

bill would allow those fingerprints to be provided electronically.

Priorities

Please reach out to us with your thoughts on education bills and any questions or concerns that you have. We want to know your priorities, inputs, and stories as we move forward towards a productive legislative session. To contact your legislator directly, click on the following link: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find>.

2022 Survey Results

PEI says "Thank You" to the 500 respondents of this year's survey. This is our largest group return since the survey began. Here are some of the take-aways from the survey.

95% of the 500 respondents serve as classroom teachers or associates.

76% have served in education for more than 10 years.

40% work additional jobs to supplement their income.

53% registered that physical or mental health challenges have kept them out of the classroom more than 3 days over the previous 3 months.

78% indicated they have considered leaving the field of education. Top reasons to consider were stress, work environment, and lack of support.

70% considered staffing levels to be inadequate.

75% shared their greatest concerns for students are gaps in learning

Even with the unique challenges we have faced over the past several years, our members continue to identify **professional calling** as their number one reason for remaining in education. Salary and benefits ranked fourth on our list this year. PEI is proud to serve such a dedicated group of professionals!

Click [here](#) to see the complete survey.



2022 Foundation Scholarships

Apply Now!

Professional Educators of Iowa Foundation is offering over 45000 in scholarships again this year to high school seniors, college students entering the education field, teachers, support staff and local matches to PEI chapters. The list of scholarships can be access on our website by clicking [here](#).

All scholarships applications must be postmarked by **April 1, 2022**.



Mount Mercy University's Master of Arts in Education (MAEd) program prepares students to become distinguished leaders in education by utilizing dynamic and interactive learning approaches in a collaborative setting. MMU is

located in Cedar Rapids, IA but offers online (live) courses to advance your career to the next level!

The MAEd program offers six areas of emphasis:

- Early Childhood Inclusive Classroom
- Effective Teaching
- English as a Second Language
- Reading
- Special Education
- Teacher Leadership

MMU offers you an education that is attainable, affordable, and applicable. We are proud to announce our Iowa Teachers Tuition Scholarship Program. All current Iowa public and private PK-12 teachers receive a \$145/credit scholarship on all courses until July 2023.

For more information, contact admission recruiter Brooke Waldron at bwaldron@mtmercy.edu or 319.363.1323 ext. 1865.

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