ED 6373 Educational Law

Instructor: Dr. Jim Summerlin
Office: Carr Room 154
Phone: 942-2647
Email: jsummerlin@angleo.edu
Office Hours: E-Office Hours are Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 4:00pm. To visit in person any time during the week, call or email for an appointment that suits your schedule.

ED 6373 Educational Law (3-0).
In this course students will explore the field of federal, state, and local school laws pertinent to school administration. It is a study of the general laws concerning education, with an emphasis on Texas, and an in-depth study of cases and decisions affecting the current operation of educational institutions. The objective is to provide students the information and knowledge they will need to facilitate effective decision making in the area of school administration.

Meetings: No required class meetings. Individual or group meetings with the instructor can be arranged by appointment. The course content is provided in an asynchronous on-line mode utilizing Blackboard as the delivery medium.

Blackboard: Blackboard may be reach from Ramport by using the quick link feature. Students should check the announcements as soon as they are enrolled in the course. Read thoroughly all of the course content to become familiar with the course requirements before beginning the first assignment.

Textbooks: You will need these books for the course. New and used editions of these texts are available from many sources including the ASU bookstore and via the Internet.

Required:
Kemerer, F.R., & Walsh, I. The educator’s guide to Texas school law (6th ed.). Austin, Texas: University of Texas Press.

Recommended:

Goals: Education, as a major function of state government, is regulated by a broad range of intertwined and frequently confusing legal documents. Administrators must be prepared to handle the constantly changing political environment of public education.

Primary - The goal of this course is for the new administrator to become familiar with the four sources of laws relevant to education: constitutional law, statutory law, administrative law, and judicial law so that he/she can readily find and interpret the pertinent article when the need arises. To accomplish this, the student must become familiar with the historically relevant cases that have shaped public education.
Secondary - School administrators must be professional communicators. A secondary but important goal of this course is to learn to communicate at a professional level with focus on written communication. All submissions in this course must comply with the APA Publication Manual.

**Objectives:** At the conclusion of this course, each student will be able to apply to current school issues those Federal and State laws (including constitutional provisions, agency regulations, and court decisions) that directly and indirectly affect public education. They will be able to knowledgably discuss student and employee rights and responsibilities, statutory and assumed authority of school boards, relations with employee organizations, civil liability of school personnel, due process, and federal disability laws.

**TExES Competencies:** This course provides the student with the basic laws, regulations, and policies that guide the Principal in Competency 003 of Domain 1.

- **Domain 1 - School Community Leadership Competency 003** - The principal knows how to act with integrity, fairness and in an ethical and legal manner.

Additionally, this course provides knowledge and skills that partially fulfill the following competencies and supplement the administrator’s knowledge of laws that affect all the principal’s domains.

- **Domain 2 - Instructional Leadership Competency 006** - The principal knows how to implement a staff evaluation and development system to improve the performance of all staff members, select and implement appropriate models for supervision and staff development, and apply the legal requirements for personnel management.

- **Domain 3 - Administrative leadership Competency 008** - The principal knows how to apply laws and policies to assure sound financial management in relation to accounts, bidding, purchasing, and grants.

- **Domain 3 - Administrative leadership Competency 009** - The principal knows how to apply local, state, and federal laws and policies to support sound decision making related to school programs and operations (e.g., student services, food services, health services, transportation).

**Course Activities:** A fundamental activity is reading: read the textbook, read journal articles, and read Internet articles written by professionals. Thinking is the primary activity. Students must analyze laws, policies, and court decisions then evaluate them for applicability. Finally students must demonstrate that they can synthesize what they have learned from court decisions into their school’s operational policies. This course is delivered on-line; consequently much of the investigative work performed by students will be done on their own time. Students must take responsibility to learn, on their own, these four things:

1. how to perform legal research
2. how to read a court decision
3. to write a case study
4. proper citations and referencing using APA

Course Grading: A student may earn a maximum of 100 points in the class. The final course grade will be assigned on this scale. 90 – 100 is an A, 80 – 89 is a B, and 70 - 79 is a C. Any score below 70 is an F. Students may receive a number of points for each assignment as indicated below. The quantities of points you receive are determined by the instructor’s evaluation of your performance. The assignments can be divided into the five categories which are explained below.

1. Overview of School Law: Student writes a 5 to 6 page paper on the overview of school law. Information is derived initially from Chapter One of the book. The paper must be augmented by information from independent research!

   (20 points)

2. Creation of Topic Guides: Each individual shall focus their attention on four topics chosen from the text and shall prepare a guide to legal issues on that topic. The guide is ostensibly for new educational administrator who may have to make important management decisions.

   (10 points each) 40 points

3. Case Summaries: Each student shall summarize and discuss the current relevance of ten important court decisions.

   (2 points each) 20 points

4. Reviews: Students shall review five legal topic guides written by other students.

   (One point each) 5 points

5. Final Exam: A true/false, multiple-choice, and fill-in the blank test on the textbook and outside material. It is already posted and you should read it before you begin the course.

   (15 points)

Grade Book: You may keep track of your grades by clicking on the “Student Grade Book” button on the left of your Blackboard screen.

- If the assignment box is blank then you have not submitted the assignment.
- If there is an exclamation point in the box, then the assignment has been received but not graded.
- If there is a zero (0) in the box, do not panic; your grade for the assignment is not 0, that is just a place holder. The 0 indicates that there was some problem with your paper and it can not be accepted. Perhaps your assignment was not complete, was submitted in the
wrong box, or it was in a format that Blackboard can not utilize. You will find details on what went wrong in the “Instructor Comments” section. To get a grade on that assignment you will have to i) correct the problem, ii) email the instructor when corrections have been made, iii) then when the assignment box appears blank again on Blackboard you must resubmit your assignment.

➤ When the assignment has been successfully submitted and graded, a numerical score will appear in the box.

➤ If a symbol of a lock appears in the box, then your partial assignment has been saved by blackboard. The instructor knows it is there but is not permitted to see it. When you finish the assignment, submit it and the lock will change to an exclamation point.