



# PEI

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS OF IOWA

February 24, 2015

## Do School District Insurance Policies Protect Teachers?

We are often asked if school district insurance policies will cover a teacher should they ever find themselves in a difficult legal position. First of all, school district insurance policies are not secured for the coverage of teachers. They are in place to protect the policy holder-the school district-first and foremost. If a district policy contains a clause that allows for employee coverage, these policies also contain provisions and exceptions that allow the district to abstain from covering an educator. Please do not assume that a district's insurance policy will protect you in the event you are named in a lawsuit by a parent, student, or colleague.

PEI's membership and liability insurance protects you in the unfortunate occurrence that you are named in a lawsuit or have to defend yourself in the event of an arrest stemming from an incident relating to your position as a school employee. PEI's staff also provides professional support and assistance should you find yourself in a disciplinary matter or a conflict with a colleague, a parent, or even a school administrator. School district policies do not provide any guidance, legal counsel, or assistance to educators in job protection issues, license issues, or disciplinary matters.



PEI also provides members with support regarding issues such as certification, retirement, contract interpretation, furloughs and much more. We do not engage in any other agreements with school districts, so our service to you is never compromised by collective bargaining deliberations or personal friendships with administrators and supervisors.

For more information about our insurance coverage and legal protection visit our website at [www.peiowa.org](http://www.peiowa.org), email us at [info@peiowa.org](mailto:info@peiowa.org) or call us at 515-221-2330.

### TIME IS CLOSING IN!!!

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE APRIL 1

[Apply Now](#)

Professional Educators of Iowa is pleased to announce the Association and Foundation scholarship program for 2015 with over \$5,000 available. Established to create an ongoing network of educational awareness for Iowans, the PEI Foundation supports worthwhile academic endeavors by awarding student and teacher scholarships. All applications must be postmarked by April 1, 2015.

Make sure that you attach the [cover page](http://bit.ly/scholarship-cover-page) (http://bit.ly/scholarship-cover-page) when applying for the scholarships as listed here!

Download the scholarship brochure [here](http://bit.ly/scholarship-brochure). (http://bit.ly/scholarship-brochure).

# MY VIEW FROM THE HILL

by Mark Felderman

There have been a couple of nonlegislative highlights in the last week "on the hill". If you've called the PEI office in the afternoon, you've probably spoken with Evan Wastenev, a senior at Waukee High School. He is a school-to-work student who spends most afternoons working here. On Wednesday, February 11, Evan spent the afternoon with me at the Capitol. He met a number of legislators, lobbyists and capitol staff. He got the opportunity to sit in on both the House and Senate Education Committees, where he saw fire-works over the school start debates.



Speaking of the start date, you will recall that the governor has asked Department of Education Director Brad Buck to stop granting waivers to start school before the week of September 1. The Senate Education Committee is holding out for complete local control and the House Education Committee has passed a compromise start date of August 24. Consequently, the two houses will form a conference committee. The kicker is that if no compromise is reached, the current law remains and schools will need to start the week of September 1.

Real negotiations on school funding began in earnest this week with the House passing the 1.25% today. It is up in the air how long the negotiations will take but I'm betting on a 2%-2.5% increase.

There are several interesting bills being introduced and I would like to hear your opinions concerning them. In the Senate, a bill has been introduced which would allow schools to mandate school uniforms. The arguments have been around for a while. School uniforms can help to eliminate cliques, eliminate the display of "gang-related" colors and symbols". It is argued that uniforms save parents money and makes it easy to identify people who are not part of the school community thus providing safety. There is always resistance to uniforms because it limits freedom of expression and critics argue that they don't actually eliminate cliques or bullying, or save parents that much money and there is no way to guarantee safety from intruders. What do you think? Hiatt Middle School is a public school in Des Moines that currently requires uniforms. To read more about them go to: <http://hiatt.dmschools.org/about/uniforms/>.

Senate Study Bill 1138, being pushed hard by Senator Quirnbach of Ames, would raise the mandatory attendance age for school to 18. In a recent survey we asked our members if the dropout age should stay at 16. 62.5% of our respondents agreed it should remain at 16 and some who disagreed commented that it should be lowered. This bill is on the fast track. If you feel strongly about this issue you should contact your senator directly soon. To find your legislators follow this link: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators>.

HF 64 addresses, to a degree, the issue of transportation cost. The cost of transporting students varies an incredible amount, from close to \$100 per student to upwards of \$1,200 per student in large rural districts. As more and more schools consolidate, this amount is going to rise. As of now the cost comes out of the general fund. The bill would authorize schools to direct the local elections commissioner to put before the voters a supplemental property tax to make up the difference between the state average and their actual cost.

There are other issues approaching as well. Civics Education, Drivers Ed, and The Golden Rule, are all topics that have bills pending and I'll be writing about them in future articles.

Let me know your thoughts and opinions. Email me at [mark@peiowa.org](mailto:mark@peiowa.org). Until then, keep your pencils sharpened and don't lose your Promethean pen.

## Here's Your Chance to Cross an Item off Your Bucket-List!



**Join fellow PEI members, family, and friends for a great day of baseball, fun and fellowship at Wrigley Field.**

**ONLY \$99!**

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Or go to <http://bit.ly/2015cubs-dodgers>.



Money Smart Week 2015 Calendar Now Available

## MONEY SMART WEEK

APRIL 18-25, 2015 | [MONEYSMARTWEEK.ORG](http://MONEYSMARTWEEK.ORG)

We are excited to announce that the Money Smart Week event calendar is now open. We hope that all of you will join us once again in this annual opportunity to help consumers make informed financial decisions and be Money Smart. Each year we've seen tremendous growth in both participation and outreach for this event. In 2014 we engaged over 250,000 consumers - we can't wait to see how many people we can encourage to be Money Smart in 2015!

### Additional Updates for 2015

- Do you know a Money Smart Kid? Have them [enter](#) for a chance to win scholarship money and earn some money smarts.
- Attend the ninth annual Financial Literacy Summit, co-hosted by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and Visa Inc., where discussion will be around potential solutions to improving millennials' financial literacy globally using mobile technology. Attend live or attend via [web stream](#).
- Have you liked us on Facebook? [Click here](#) to like us today.



### STAY CONNECTED!

[www.peiowa.org](http://www.peiowa.org)

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