



PEI

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS OF IOWA

- *Scholarships Online
- *Legislators Take Action
- *Iowa Schools Grade Card
- *Member's Survey Results

Greetings!

We trust that you all returned to the classrooms refreshed from a great holiday break or at least we hope so. As with every new year, there is a great deal of action going on politically. PEI endeavors to do two things for each member. First we make every effort to exert as much influence as possible to protect your rights and promote our principles as are published in our code of ethics, literature, and by-laws. Second, we lobby on behalf of your interests and responses to the annual survey and other issues brought to our attention.

As many of you are aware, the professional mix of PEI members is unique. We have predominately public school teachers as members, but also a growing number of private school teachers, administrators, and support members in PEI. That can happen because of our deep respect for all who are entrusted with our students on all levels including our post-secondary members. Being an advocate on all levels is a delicate undertaking that we accept.

FINANCIAL ADVOCACY for TEACHERS

PEI knows that regardless of the gross pay we receive, what really matters is your usable income. We keep our dues low and offer benefits and discounts to leverage your take home pay. For a number of years we have promoted a **TAX CREDIT** for the "out of pocket" expenses most of our members have for classroom supplies and activities. The fact is that for every dollar you spend on your students you have to earn \$1.50 or so to have that \$1 available. Considering you are volunteering to purchase for your students, you should get a bottom-line credit on your taxes. It benefits the students and compensates you for investing. **It benefits the tax-payers of Iowa because the dollars directly benefits our students without the bureaucratic wastes of filtering dollars through the agencies.** We will let you know the bill number as soon as it comes forward to the education committee.

MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS

The survey was done online in a new system to PEI. We learned a great deal and can improve on future surveys, but keep this in mind: No matter whether you are in the minority or majority on an issue, your views are published. This survey goes to all of the legislators and key members of the Governor's office. Here are the survey results.

<http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e372cpwfgjhd8w7e/results>

IOWA'S NATIONAL SCORE

In all this mix, I remember going to meetings less than a decade ago and all the other states thought Iowa was the top. By today's measurements, we just can't claim that anymore. Here is the latest from Education week. **Iowa ranked 26 in the nation by their evaluation standards. We received an article C+ (76.7).**

I was going to put all the statistics in this article, but you may need to register with Ed Week to get the details there are so many and copying them wasn't working to well.

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/qc/2011/16src.h30.html>

SCHOLARSHIPS 2011

The 2011 scholarships now available online at:

<http://www.peiowa.org/resources/Scholarship%20Brochure%202011.pdf>

PEI is committed to doing an annual survey because we represent you and the ideals on which we were founded. As the legislation goes forward there is nothing as effective as each of you staying in contact with your senators and representatives. They listen and respond.

Sincerely,
Jim Hawkins
Professional Educators of Iowa