

*Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year!*



Dear PEI Member,

## BEFORE YOU GO!

We sincerely hope that you have had a great 2015 and that the coming break with a Christmas celebration and the beginning of a new year is a memory that you will cherish. The PEI office will be open for a large part of the break time, but we want you to be aware of the office hours.

- December 21 & 22 8:30 to 4:00
- December 23 8:30 to 12:00
- December 24 & 25 Closed
- December 28,29,30 8:30 to 4:00
- December 31 Closed
- January 1 Closed

## ONE LAST THING!

Professional Educators of Iowa Foundation needs your year-end contributions. We hate to ask, but we must. The foundation is currently awarding around \$5,500 each year for scholarships. The last action we want to take is to eliminate any of the areas in which we have traditionally given.

A few facts:  
 PEIF is a C3 charity.  
 It is fully deductible for tax purposes.  
 We have given many thousands to help teachers, and students further their education.  
 We use "blind" evaluations. The committee does not know who they are evaluating.  
 We operate as a true C3 offering the foundation scholarships to anyone qualified in Iowa.

Please consider bolstering our foundation with a financial contribution or other property of value this year!

### ***YES! I want to be a PEI Foundation donor!***

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



Here is my generous tax-deductible contribution to help PEI Foundation

\$25       \$250       \$2,500  
 \$50       \$500       \$5,000  
 \$100       \$1,000       \$10,000  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

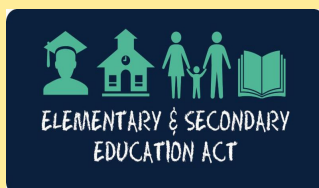
Mail to: PEI  
 974 73rd St. Ste 30  
 Windsor Heights, IA 50324

# A HUGE SHIFT OF NCLB



As you are aware, President Obama signed into law the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA), the reauthorization of the **Elementary and Secondary Education Act** (ESEA). (<http://1.usa.gov/1Qze2mR>) Congress overwhelmingly passed the legislation in the House (359-64) and the Senate (85-12), and was bipartisan. This is the legislation to replace the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB), the previous version of the ESEA, which was passed in 2001, and has been up for reauthorization since 2007. Overall, we support legislation that reduces the federal role in public education and restores local control. The new "Every Student Succeeds Act" is a move in that direction. It is an imperfect piece of legislation, and will not please everyone.

**CLICK HERE FOR A SUMMARY:** <http://bit.ly/1Mhm0e7>



## VALUABLE TEACHING TIP: REVIEW YOUR LESSON

Recently a teacher joined PEI. One of her main reasons should strike fear in the hearts of many. She was very concerned because one of her students was overheard telling her parents that all she did was play games and didn't learn anything. Our new member knew that was not factual, but was very concerned that the parents might think that it was true and as a result complain and place her job in jeopardy as a regular substitute. What if students are going home and saying these things about you? What if your administrator believes that it is so? Do you really want the hassle of proving it otherwise? **An ounce of prevention may save you from a future issue.** Click here: <http://bit.ly/227XxUe> to see WHAT WE RECOMMEND!

## New Year - Smart Goals

It's that time; time to be thinking about New Year's resolutions. Yes, that annual event of deciding to diet, quit bad habits, save more money, start exercising, reading more and the usual. We all start that list with best intentions and we (at least I) often fall flat after a few weeks.

Perhaps, more success might come our way if we were to put into practice what we've all heard for years in our PD's. Instead of just a resolution, write SMART goals. I heard your eyes rolling! For those of you still reading, here is the brief review. A SMART goal is:

- Specific* - target a specific area for improvement.
- Measurable* - quantify or at least suggest an indicator of progress.
- Attainable* - assuring that an end can be achieved.
- Realistic* - state what results can realistically be achieved, given available resources.
- Time-related* - specify when the result(s) can be achieved.



Instead of resolving to diet, choose a specific amount to lose, with a number of pounds or inches off. Make sure it is attainable, an amount you can reach or with specific attainable benchmarks (more educational jargon) and realistic for you. Finally give yourself a limited amount of time.

We wish you all the best for 2016 from PEI.

## Exclusive Holiday Specials



<http://bit.ly/1moojHn>