



PEI

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS OF IOWA

March 8, 2018

Florida Vacation?



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2018 Scholarship Awards

Professional Educators of Iowa Foundation has offered scholarships and awards to high school seniors for over 40 years! This year we have over \$5000 available in scholarship and awards. The list can be found at: <https://www.peiowa.org/about/peif-scholarships/>

Teacher of Tomorrow: High school senior aspiring to teach

Ed Christian Memorial: High school senior entering a science field

Educational Persistence: High school senior or college student going into teaching

Professional Development: Assist classroom teachers who are expanding their professional skills

Teacher Associate of the Year: A stipend to honor those individuals who assist in the classroom

Local Chapter Scholarships: Matching local chapter scholarship funds

Professional Educators of Iowa also awards association scholarships:

Child of PEI Member: High school senior entering college

Professional Educator of the Year Award: Honors educators who exemplify professionalism

**All scholarships must be postmarked by
April 1, 2018**

2018 Legislative Session Rundown!

Compared to last year, the General Assembly of 2018 has been quite a calm event! That is not to say there have not been some interesting and surprising moments! The House and Senate approved the 1% in additional funding for education which equals out to \$32 million more for next school year. The Senate also passed a bill which will provide more funding for school busing (see below SF 455).

The battle continues between the Department of Education and the Legislature on assessments! HF 2235 once and for all, specifically names the University of Iowa as the provider for Iowa's statewide assessment as they have been for decades. If passed, this will end the controversy as to which test will be used. This bill has passed the House and is awaiting action in the Senate.

On Tuesday, March 6, the House voted to no longer require the PRAXIS test (**HF 2280**) in order to be licensed to teach in Iowa. The Senate version (**SF 2171**), changes the language to state that if an educator fails to reach the required score they would be issued a one year license during which time they can retake the test. Another related proposal changes the required score from a floating percentile, to a set score on the PRAXIS. We'll see what happens, but I believe there will be a change in the PRAXIS requirements.

HF 2350 and **SF 2113** take up teacher training in suicide prevention. The Senate has already passed their version which requires one hour of training every five years. The House version is much more extensive and includes training in trauma-informed care and postvention. The House version requires one hour of training annually.

Pay Membership Monthly!

PEI dues are by far the most affordable career protection you can purchase! You now have the option of using ACH monthly installments to fulfill your membership.



The monthly option is open to all Professional and Supporting members.

Mail the ACH form found on our website to:

PEI
974 73rd Street, Ste 30
Windsor Heights, IA 50324

SF 2131 passed the Senate 50 – 0 and has been sent to the House. This bill expands the reach of online classes available to students receiving independent private instruction, competent private instruction, or private instruction. The fees associated with these classes will be established by the DOE and are payable to the department for the purpose of administering the classes.

HF 2354 passed the House and will be considered by the Senate. It is a bill that seeks to protect the personal information of Iowa's students. With several third party vendors now recording our students' attendance, grades, and other information, this bill seeks to provide safeguards to keep personal information private. It also prohibits targeted advertising based on a student's online activity.

SF 2274 requires the Department of Education to include the state or federal law/provisions on any report where the department is requiring the inclusion of certain information. First that educators would better understand what information is being required and why, and that it might discourage the DOE from requesting unnecessary information.

SF 455 will be signed today, March 8 at Central High in Davenport. This bill appropriates \$14.1 million next school year to deliver greater equity in education spending and school bus transportation.

Current law regulates bus routes to not exceed an hour. **SF 2137** takes into consideration districts that have consolidated and distances to school buildings have increased. This bill allows for routes to extend to 75 minutes. It has passed the Senate and is being considered in the House.

The Senate passed **SF 2341** which would require all students in Iowa to pass a Civics test in order to graduate. The students will have opportunities beginning in 7th grade to complete the requirement. The test will be the same test required of those seeking American citizenship. This bill still needs to clear hurdles in the Iowa House.

SF 2364 and **HF 515** will require all public and nonpublic schools to develop a high-quality emergency operations plan by June 30, 2019. The plan will include but not be limited to active shooter scenarios and natural disasters. This bill was proposed at the beginning of the session, before the school shootings in Florida.

A number of interesting bills did not make it to debate this year. Among them were ideas to allow students to be excused from taking PE. Another would have stiffened eligibility rules for nonathletic extra-curricular activities, such as band and drama. And finally a bill was introduced to change the name of "foreign language" to "world language." April 17 marks the "end" of the session, just 5 weeks away.



Quick Links...

PEI
www.peiowa.org
info@peiowa.org

BOEE
www.boee.iowa.gov/

DOE
www.educateiowa.gov/

PERB
<https://iowaperb.iowa.gov/>

IOWA LEGISLATURE <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/>

PEI BENEFITS



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