

**EDUCATION LAW TOPICS
COURSE SYLLABUS—Summer and Fall 2010
LYNDON STATE COLLEGE**

**Instructor: John A. Nelson, Esq.
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Class Schedule: Fridays, July 9, 16, 23, 30; Saturdays September 18 and October 2. July classes begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 4:00 p.m. September and October classes begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 12:00 p.m.

This course will provide an overview of the topics in education law that most frequently confront school administrators. The course will emphasize the importance of being able to identify legal issues as opposed to being able to recite “black letter law.” The primary methodology used in the course will be lecture/discussion. Students will be expected to participate in large and small group discussions and to present points of view based on their analysis of court decisions, statutory law and hypothetical fact situations.

Course Materials:

Vermont Education Law Course Book, 2010

Vermont Education Lawbook, Vermont School Boards Association, Lexis Nexis, 2009 Edition.

Supplemental Handouts and Additional Readings provided by the instructor.

Weekly Schedule of Topics:

July 9, 2010: Introduction to Law and Government; Right to Education; Local Governance Issues

- Law and Legal System
- Structure of Government
- Educational Governance
- Equal Educational Opportunity
- Compulsory Attendance
- Home Study Integration
- Powers and Duties of Electorate and School Boards
- Conflict of Interest
- Open Meetings, Public Records, Conduct of Local Elections

July 16, 2010: Federal Programs; No Child Left Behind, IDEA, Section 504 and ESL

- Accountability under Federal Law
- Free and Appropriate Education for Students with Disabilities
- Migrant and Homeless Students

July 23, 2010: Student Discipline; Non Discrimination /Harassment/Bullying/Hazing

- Due Process of Law
- Suspension/Expulsion
- Student Searches
- Weapons
- Vermont Public Accommodations Act
- On and Off Campus Bullying and Harassment

July 30, 2010: Religion in the Schools; Employment Issues

- Prayer—Constitutional and Statutory Questions
- Equal Access Act
- Student Religious Practices
- Religious Holidays
- Religion in the Curriculum
- Payment of Tuition to Sectarian Schools
- Teacher Licensing
- Collective Bargaining
- Mandatory Reporting of Abuse and Neglect
- Employee Background Checks

September 18, 2010: Student and Parent Rights; Liability

- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
- Free Speech/Dress Codes
- Protection of Pupil Rights Act
- Search and Seizure
- Elements of Negligence
- Liability for Injury to Persons or Property

October 2, 2010: Review and Final Exercise

Grading Policy

The final course grade will be based approximately on the following:

1. Class participation reflecting review of the assigned reading and consideration of the issues raised in those materials---1/3
2. Class writing/oral presentation assignments---1/3
3. Final written examination---1/3