

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
Education Leadership Program

EDLE 612, Section A02 Summer 2015
Education Law

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Office Hours: Before and after class or by appointment.

Schedule Information

Meeting Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:30 -7:10
Saturdays, 9:00-12:00

Location: Thompson Hall L018

Students are expected to attend every class session. Personal problems that prevent students from attending class should be reported ahead of time to the instructor via telephone or e-mail.

Course Description

EDLE 612 Education Law (3:3:0)

Provides legal foundations of U.S. public schools. Examines general principles of statutory and case law, and applies judicial decisions to educational environments. Focuses on legal responsibilities, constraints, and opportunities of public school officials. Includes component of Special Education law.

Prerequisite(s): EDLE 620 or EDSE 743; EDLE 690 and EDLE 791.

General Goals

Content:

Legal problems with students, parents, and community organizations are increasing in number and complexity and official reactions and solutions to these problems are likely to be subjected to judicial review. A wrong step can land the school administrator in court—with the accompanying expense, notoriety and always embarrassment. Litigation cannot be avoided entirely, but school systems, administrators and teachers can minimize it and increase their chances of success in suits that are filed by knowing the law, anticipating problems and taking precautionary steps. The body of school law, both statutory and case has increased by leaps and bounds in the last decade. Colleges and universities preparing prospective teachers and administrators have offered courses in school law. Some state legislatures and state boards of education have prescribed training in school law as one of the prerequisites for certification.

Program vision: The Education Leadership Program is dedicated to improving the quality of pre-K - 12 education through teaching, research, and service. Candidates and practicing administrators engage in course work devoted to experiential learning, professional growth opportunities, and doctoral research that informs practice. We educate exceptional leaders who act with integrity as they work to improve schools.

Teaching and Learning:

1. Discussion is an important part of this course. All candidates are expected to make multiple, thoughtful contributions to each class discussion, based on careful reading of the text and consideration of what classmates have previously said.
2. Writing is an important activity for many roles within schools. Therefore, the process of writing will be emphasized so that candidates will achieve the following objectives:
 - develop greater confidence in their ability to write expository, analytical, and persuasive prose;
 - learn how to review their own work and the work of others to eliminate errors and maximize clarity; and
 - produce written products immune to criticism from a skeptical public.

All written work is expected to be submitted on time as indicated below. All written work must be edited carefully before being submitted so that candidates are turning in their best work.

Classroom Climate:

A positive climate depends on cooperation among all students and with the instructor. Candidates need to work together to ensure that everyone has the confidence to participate honestly and energetically. Every candidate is expected to:

1. be fully prepared for each class session;
2. be attentive to others and respond thoughtfully and respectfully;
3. work toward a common purpose;
4. persevere through the common challenge of understanding education law; and
5. affirm one another's successes and help one another overcome weaknesses.

Nature of Course Delivery

A variety of instructional methods are used in this course including: large- and small-group instruction, cooperative learning activities, Internet assignments, lectures, guest practitioner presentations (if possible), individual presentations, case studies, role-play, and written and verbal assignments.

Course Objectives

This course serves as the foundation for understanding the legal process related to education in the Master's sequence in Education Leadership. All of the program goals are active, to a greater or lesser degree, in this course. Students taking this course will:

1. Engage in reflective practice with regard to education law (internship-related assignments);
2. Strengthen and improve their communication skills through class discussion and paper writing
3. Understand the legal implications and responsibilities associated with cultural, economic, and learning diversity;

4. Reflect on the intersection of law and ethics and the ethical implications of applying education law to everyday situations in schools and school divisions; and
5. Learn how to use the Internet to obtain legal information.

Student Outcomes

The outcomes below are related to both suggested and required performances. All instructors are required to include the following three performances:

1. Legal Issue Analysis
2. Special Populations Paper & Presentation
3. Code of Ethics Development and Ethical Case Study Analysis

Students will focus on major legal and ethical issues in education. At the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

1. verbally demonstrate an informed perspective on major topics in education law;
2. analyze a case study involving the identification, placement and provision of programs and services for a student who is eligible pursuant to special education provisions; and
3. analyze key educational law issues in a manner which reveals comprehension of political, social, ethical, and legal influences, specifically the principles, laws, policies, cases & regulations that are applicable in education.

Relationship of Course Goals to Program Goals

This course will enable students to develop knowledge, skills and dispositions that will prepare them to create and maintain learning environments that value diversity, continual knowledge acquisition, instructional leadership, innovative and ethical decision-making, reflective practice, and successful achievement of all school-aged youth.

Relationship of Course to Internship

Although the internship is a separate course, the Education Leadership program has integrated “embedded experiences” into course work. This means that some of the work for this class is related to your internship. You may write about embedded experiences in your internship journal and Collective Record, but they can only count over and above the minimum 320 hours required for the internship.

National Standards and Virginia Competencies

The course addresses VADOE Competencies, ISLLC Standards, and ELCC (NCATE) Standards dealing with the legal, ethical, and political context of education. Specific ELCC Standards addressed include: 3.3, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 6.1, 6.2, and 6.3. Virginia competencies include: c (6) Legal issues and e (1) Philosophy of education that reflects honesty, fairness, caring, and equity. In addition to these competencies, candidates will develop an explicit understanding of Virginia’s “Child Abuse and Neglect Recognition and Intervention Act (Code of Virginia 22.1-98). Such understanding will include:

1. Recognizing child abuse and neglect
2. Reporting child abuse and neglect
3. Intervention following a child protective services investigation

Course Materials

Readings:

Text: Alexander & Alexander (2012). *American Public School Law* (8th Ed.). Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

The required text is available in the Mason Bookstore in the Johnson Center. Additional materials and hand-outs will be posted on Taskstream and/or distributed in class.

Virginia Code: <http://legis.state.va.us/Laws/CodeofVa.htm>

United States Code: <http://uscode.house.gov/search/criteria.shtml>

US Dept of Education: <http://www.ed.gov/index.jhtml>

George Mason University Library/LexisNexis Academic: <http://library.gmu.edu/>

Classroom Materials:

In order to successfully complete required assignments, students must have access to a personal computer with internet access, be able to use basic word processing and e-mail, and access appropriate websites (see recommended websites) for supplemental materials.

Correspondence by e-mail will use your Mason e-mail account.

Outside-of-Class Resources:

Candidates are required to use Taskstream (<http://taskstream.gmu.edu>) as part of this course. Vital information for the course will be posted on Taskstream; and we will communicate regularly through this site. Candidates are required to submit their course assignments electronically using the Taskstream website. Online access is vital for the distance learning aspects of the course and is an important part of course participation grade. **All students are required to activate and monitor their GMU e-mail accounts.**

Cancellation Policy: If a cancellation is necessary, the class will be made up via an electronic activity. Specifically, candidates are expected to log-on to the computer in order to participate in an electronic discussion/activity as directed, which will replace the missed class.

Course Requirements, Performance-based Assessment, and Evaluation Criteria

Participation and Attendance (15 points)

Students are expected to attend every class for its entirety. **Maximum class participation points will be earned by students who attend all classes, are on time and do not leave early.** Part of your course grade is earned through ongoing assessment of your attendance, performance, communication and professional disposition in class discussions. Punctual attendance and regular class participation are vital to your success in this course. Participation includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Coming to class prepared (i.e., reading the assigned material)
- Demonstrate respect and civility (**avoid side conversations, multi-tasking, etc.**)
- Professional behavior and presentation
- Willingness to volunteer for a class activity
- Contributing to class discussion in a meaningful manner
- Sticking to the topic at hand

- Respect for others' questions and responses
- Use of appropriate problem solving techniques
- Appropriate use of allotted time
- Sharing experiences from work that are relevant to the class discussion

Written Assignments (85 points)

Since this is a graduate-level class, **high quality work** on all written assignments is expected. Students should refer to the appendices and rubrics for specific guidance on written assignments. Candidates are expected to submit their work on time.

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| 1. Ethics Analysis (25 points) | Directions and Due Date: Appendix A |
| 2. Legal Issue Analysis (30 points) | Directions and Due Date: Appendix B |
| 3. Special Populations Paper & Presentation (30 points) | Directions Due Date: Appendix C |

Expectations for Written Work

Use appropriate grammar.	Spell correctly.
Writing should be the caliber of a graduate student.	Type all work.
Use Times New Roman or Arial 12-font.	Write clearly.
Include a cover page with name, date & assignment.	Find a good proofreader!

Follow **APA guidelines** (double space, references, etc.) **Avoid plagiarism!**

Grade Appeals: Candidates must present grade appeals in writing and must put forth a reasonable written explanation that supports their request for a grade change.

Grading scale:

A+	=	100 percent
A	=	95 - 99 percent
A -	=	90 - 94 percent
B+	=	86 - 89 percent
B	=	83 - 85 percent
B-	=	80 - 82 percent
C	=	75 - 79 percent
F	=	74 percent or below

George Mason University Policies and Resources for Students

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code (See <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>).
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.

d. The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance (See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>).

e. Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester (See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>).

f. Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

g. The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing (See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>).

PROFESSIONAL DISPOSITIONS

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

CORE VALUES COMMITMENT

The College of Education & Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles: <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>.

Class Schedule and Discussion Topics

		Topic	Readings	Assignments Due
1	Tuesday May 19	Overview of Course and Syllabus Introduction to the Legal System, School Laws and Case Law	Chapters 1 and 2	
2	Thursday May 21	Role of the Federal Government Governance of Public Schools	Chapters 3 and 4	
	Saturday May 23	Memorial Day Weekend	No Class	
3	Tuesday May 26	Separation of Church and State Religion in Schools, Prayer, and Equal Access Act	Chapter 5	
4	Thursday May 28	School Attendance The Instructional Program	Chapter 6 Chapter 7	Legal Analysis 1 Due
5	Saturday May 30	Student Speech and Expression Search and Seizure	Chapter 8 Chapter 9	

6	Tuesday June 2	Student Rights: Common Law, Constitutional Due Process and Statutory Protections Education Law and Ethics Intro.	Chapter 10	
7	Thursday June 4	Rights of Students with Disabilities	Chapter 11	
8	Saturday June 6	Tort Liability Defamation and Student Records	Chapter 12 Chapter 13	
9	Tuesday June 9	School District Liability Certification, Contracts and Tenure	Chapter 14 Chapter 15	
10	Thursday June 11	In-Class Presentations		Special Populations Paper and Presentations Due
11	Saturday June 13	Teacher Rights and Freedoms Due Process Rights of Teachers	Chapter 16 Chapter 17	Legal Analysis 2 Due
12	Tuesday June 16	Education Law and Ethics In class group exercise	Handouts to be distributed	Ethics Assignment Due
13	Thursday June 18	Discrimination in Employment Desegregation of Public Schools	Chapter 18 Chapter 20	

NOTE: The above represents an approximation of the items to be covered and the respective dates. True coverage will depend on the pace of the discussion, the collective needs of students and the professor and the demands of time. You are expected, however, to keep pace with the calendar of assigned readings.

APPENDIX A

Ethics Code, Case Study & Analysis and Rubric

This assignment has three parts as described below and in detail in the Ethical Case Study Rubric:

ASSIGNMENT VALUE: 25 Points

DUE DATE: Tuesday, June 16th

I. Develop a Code of Ethics.

- Examine several existing public school codes of ethics.
- Identify key moral, ethical and legal principles and personal values that relate, or should relate, to public school administrators.
- Develop your own personal code of ethics.

II. Identify and develop a case study of an ethical dilemma in your school system, and then use your Code of Ethics to analyze the case study. The ethical dilemma can be an actual or a hypothetical event.

- Identify the rights and interests of all individuals involved in the case study.
- Explain how you used your code of ethics to analyze the ethical dilemma in your case study and formulate a detailed leadership response to the ethical dilemma that includes an analysis of the moral and legal consequences of your decision.
- Your discussion should clearly demonstrate your commitment to confidentiality, sensitivity to diverse interests, and respect for rights, dignity, and integrity of others.

III. Seek feedback from a colleague in your school system about how you used your Code to analyze the identified ethical dilemma case study in your school system.

- Explain briefly why you chose this colleague and describe the general nature of the discussion.
- Share how your colleague reacted and any advice or insights that your colleague shared with you regarding the application of your ethics code to the case study analysis.

Ethical Case Study Assessment Rubric

	Exceeds Expectations 4	Meets Expectations 3	Approaching Expectations 2	Falls Below Expectations 1
<p>ELCC 5.1 Candidates demonstrate understanding of need for integrity and fairness through the development of an ethical code based on ethical and legal principles. (15%)</p>	<p>The candidate develops a code of ethics that includes clearly identified ethical and legal principles from at least 3 different professional codes of ethics; and clearly explains how the developed code reflects understanding of the ethical and legal principles that are critical to school leadership.</p>	<p>The candidate develops a code of ethics that includes ethical and legal principles from 3 different professional codes of ethics; and explains how the developed code reflects general understanding of the ethical and legal principles that are critical to school leadership.</p>	<p>The candidate develops a code of ethics that includes ethical and legal principles from only 2 codes of ethics; and discussion of the developed code lacks evidence of understanding the ethical and legal principles that are critical to school leadership.</p>	<p>The candidate develops a code of ethics but fails to identify ethical and legal principles as the primary source and foundation of the code; discussion of the developed code lacks evidence of understanding the ethical and legal principles that are critical to school leadership.</p>
<p>ELCC 5.3 Candidates understand and safeguards the values of democracy, equity, and diversity within the school. (25%)</p>	<p>The candidate thoroughly describes an ethical dilemma and carefully evaluates several school policies and procedures that would support resolution of the dilemma. The candidate demonstrates in-depth understanding of the need to promote democratic values, equity, and respect for diversity.</p>	<p>The candidate briefly describes an ethical dilemma and evaluates several school policies and procedures that would support resolution of the dilemma. The candidate demonstrates understanding of the need to promote democratic values, equity, and respect for diversity.</p>	<p>The candidate poorly describes an ethical dilemma and evaluates school policy and procedures that would support resolution of the dilemma. The candidate demonstrates limited understanding of the need to promote democratic values, equity, and respect for diversity.</p>	<p>The candidate fails to describe an ethical dilemma, and also fails to evaluate school policies and procedures that would support resolution of the dilemma. The candidate fails to demonstrate understanding of the need to promote democratic values, equity, and respect for diversity.</p>
<p>ELCC 5.2 Candidates understand and can model principles of self-awareness, reflective practice, transparency, and ethical behavior as related to their roles within the school. (25%)</p>	<p>The candidate thoroughly describes discussion with a colleague to formulate a detailed leadership response to an ethical dilemma; and analyzes the leadership decision demonstrating specific awareness of established ethical standards and practices.</p>	<p>The candidate sufficiently describes discussion with a colleague to formulate a leadership response to an ethical dilemma; and analyzes the leadership decision, explaining established ethical standards and practices.</p>	<p>The candidate describes discussion with a colleague to formulate a leadership response to an ethical dilemma; and analyzes the leadership decision, explaining established ethical standards and practices.</p>	<p>The candidate fails to describe discussion with a colleague to formulate a leadership response to an ethical dilemma; and analyzes the leadership decision, explaining established ethical standards and practices.</p>
<p>ELCC 5.4 Candidates understand and can evaluate the potential moral and legal consequences of decision making in the school. (25%)</p>	<p>The candidate uses the code of ethics to analyze the case and clearly demonstrates commitment to confidentiality, sensitivity to diverse interests, and respect for rights, dignity, and integrity of others.</p>	<p>The candidate applies the code of ethics to the case and demonstrates commitment to confidentiality, sensitivity to diverse interests, and respect for rights, dignity, and integrity of others.</p>	<p>The candidate inadequately applies the code of ethics to the case and fails to clearly demonstrate commitment to confidentiality, sensitivity to diverse interests, and respect for rights, dignity, and integrity of others.</p>	<p>The candidate fails to apply the code of ethics to the case and fails to demonstrate commitment to confidentiality, sensitivity to diverse interests, and respect for rights, dignity, and integrity of others.</p>

<p>Writing and flow of thought are clear and thorough, content is scholarly and instructive. Paper is grammatically correct. (10%)</p>	<p>The paper is generally error-free, reflects extensive editing, proofreading, and graduate level work. Sentence structures and word choice are excellent.</p>	<p>The paper is generally error-free, reflects sufficient editing, proofreading, and graduate level work. Sentence structures and word choice are good.</p>	<p>The paper contains spelling and grammatical errors, reflects poor editing and proofreading, and is approaching graduate level work. Sentence structures and word choice are adequate.</p>	<p>The paper contains far too many spelling and grammatical errors, reflects poor editing and proofreading, and is approaching graduate level work. Sentence structures and word choice are poor.</p>
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Appendix B

Legal Issue Analysis

Candidates are expected to respond in long essay form (*4-5 pages double-spaced*) to questions #1 or #2. Be sure to adhere to the expectations for written work, the specific directions provided for each question, and to the general guidelines in the Legal Issue Analysis Rubric for each question.

ASSIGNMENT VALUE: 30 Points

1. Separation of Church and State Analysis

DUE DATE: Thursday, May 28th

Scenario: Your faculty planning committee is coordinating the graduation ceremony agenda and wants to use the Battle Hymn of the Republic as a centerpiece of the ceremony. The high school band will play and the school chorus will sing the first few verses to provide a natural break between the academic awards and the awarding of diplomas. This piece is the only one in the ceremony and has been used every year at your school's graduation ceremony since 1978.

Discussion: Make a recommendation on the use of the Battle Hymn of the Republic for use during the graduation ceremony by examining its contents and the context of its use in the ceremony. Relate specific cases where applicable.

Battle Hymn of the Republic

By Julia Ward Howe

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.
He has trampled out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored.
He hath loosed His fateful lightning with His terrible swift sword
His truth is marching on.

I have seen the burning watch fires of a hundred circling camps.
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps.
They have read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps.
His Word in marching on.

Chorus:

Glory, glory, halleluiah!
Glory, glory, halleluiah!
Glory, glory, halleluiah!
His truth is marching on.

2. Negligence and Tort Liability Analysis

DUE DATE: Saturday, June 13th.

Scenario: You are Coach Smith, a seasoned football coach for longer than your school principal has been an administrator. Another season has started and you have just not had time to check out the condition of your player's helmets yet. Your first priority has been to gather the required emergency care cards, physical forms, and parental release statements that protect you and your school from liability.

During the second week of try-outs, you have your first scrimmage against another school's team. One of your players collides with an opposing player hitting helmet-to-helmet. Unfortunately, your trainer, who is assigned to attend all official interscholastic contests, is home sick and not available to assist. You call an ambulance right away, but your player does not receive proper medical attention until the paramedics arrive. Your athlete is taken to the hospital where he is diagnosed with a concussion and you are met by his very distraught parents.

Discussion: Are either the coach or the school district liable for any negligence? Why or why not? Do they have any defenses to negligence in the law suit that the player's parents will surely file? Cite case law to support your position.

Legal Issue Analysis Rubric Assessment Rubric

	Exceeds Expectations 4	Meets Expectations 3	Approaching Expectations 2	Falls Below Expectations 1
Introduction (5%)	Analysis begins with a clear and concise statement of purpose. The introduction provides a comprehensive overview of the case study analysis for the reader.	Analysis begins with a general statement of purpose. The introduction provides a basic overview of the case study analysis for the reader.	Analysis begins with an unclear or limited statement of purpose. The introduction provides an incomplete overview of the case study analysis.	Analysis begins with a confusing and unclear statement of purpose. The introduction fails to provide an overview of the case study analysis.
ELCC 3.3 Candidates understand and promote school-based policies and procedures that protect the welfare and safety of students and staff within the school. Candidates evaluate and propose implementation of discipline management plans (for staff and students). (10%)	The candidate identifies at least two school policies or procedures and thoroughly explains how these policies and procedures are applicable to promoting a safe school environment for staff and students. The candidate clearly evaluates and proposes the implementation of discipline management plans (for staff and students).	The candidate identifies at least two school policies or procedures and explains the school-based policies and procedures that are applicable to promoting a safe school environment for staff and students. The candidate evaluates and proposes the implementation of discipline management plans (for staff and students).	The candidate identifies a school policy or procedure but provides a limited explanation of how the policy or procedure is applicable to promoting a safe school environment for staff and students. The candidate evaluates but does not clearly propose the implementation of discipline management plans (for staff and students).	The candidate identifies a school policy or procedure but fails to explain how the policy or procedure is applicable to promoting a safe school environment for staff and students. The candidate fails to evaluate or propose the implementation of discipline management plans (for staff and students).
ELCC 6.1 Candidates understand and can advocate for school students, families, and caregivers. (15%)	The candidate includes multiple citations of constitutional, statutory and case laws, policies, and regulations that inform decision making and advocacy for all members of the school community.	The candidate includes citations of constitutional, statutory and case laws, policies, and regulations that inform decision making and advocacy for all members of the school community.	The candidate includes citations of constitutional or statutory and case law, policies, and regulations that inform decision making and advocacy for all members of the school community.	The candidate omits citations of constitutional, statutory and case law, policies, and regulations that inform decision making and advocacy for all members of the school community.
ELCC 6.2 Candidates understand and can act to influence local, district, state, and national decisions affecting student learning in a school environment. (15%)	The candidate's written analysis of political, social, economic, legal and cultural context is exemplary. The analysis includes clear & specific reference to the leader's communication practices to appropriate school stakeholders.	The candidate's written analysis of political, social, economic, legal, and cultural context is adequate. The analysis includes a general reference to the leader's communication practices to appropriate school stakeholders.	The candidate's written analysis of political, social, economic, legal, and cultural context is limited. The analysis includes a limited reference to the leader's communication practices to appropriate school stakeholders.	The candidate's written analysis of political, social, economic, legal, and cultural context is unacceptable. The analysis neglects to reference the leader's communication practices to appropriate school stakeholders.
ELCC 5.1 Candidates understand and can act with integrity and fairness to ensure that schools are accountable for every student's academic and social	The candidate presents a comprehensive discussion that includes specific references to the use of leadership practices characterized by fairness and integrity to ensure that school policies support the academic and social	The candidate presents a general discussion that includes specific references to the use of leadership practices characterized by fairness and integrity to ensure that school policies support the academic and	The candidate presents a general discussion that includes implied references to the use of leadership practices characterized by fairness and integrity to ensure that school policies support the academic and	The candidate presents an inadequate discussion with no reference to the use of leadership practices characterized by fairness and integrity to ensure that school policies support the academic and social

success. (15%)	success of all students.	social success of all students.	social success of all students.	success of all students.
ELCC 5.2 Candidates understand and can model principles of self-awareness, reflective practice, transparency, and ethical behavior as related to their roles within the school. (10%)	The candidate includes a thorough analysis of leadership decisions in terms of established ethical practices, self-awareness, reflective practice and transparency.	The candidate includes a general analysis of leadership decisions in terms of established ethical practices, self-awareness, reflective practice and transparency.	The candidate includes a limited analysis of leadership decisions in terms of established ethical practices or self-awareness or reflective practice or transparency.	The candidate omits an analysis of leadership decisions in terms of established ethical practices, self-awareness, reflective practice and transparency.
ELCC 5.4 Candidates understand and can evaluate the potential moral and legal consequences of decision making in the school. (10%)	Candidate clearly demonstrates an in-depth understanding and awareness of the need to consider moral, ethical, and legal consequences of decisions that impact the school environment.	Candidate demonstrates a general understanding and awareness of the need to consider moral, ethical, and legal consequences of decisions that impact the school environment.	The candidate demonstrates limited understanding and awareness of the need to consider moral, ethical, and legal consequences of decisions that impact the school environment.	The candidate fails to demonstrate understanding and awareness of the need to consider moral, ethical, and legal consequences of decisions that impact the school environment.
Discussion of information and references is useful and instructive. (10%)	The candidate gathers numerous (8-10) high quality sources; provides clear and thorough discussion; and conducts critical evaluations of references.	The candidate gathers several (6-7) high quality sources; provides solid discussion; and conducts evaluations of references.	The candidate gathers several (6-7) but not high quality sources; provides some discussion; and conducts limited evaluations of references.	The candidate gathers insufficient and poor quality sources; provides insufficient discussion; and conducts insufficient evaluations of references.
Organization, mechanics and proofreading of the paper. (10%)	The paper is well-organized and error-free; non-discriminatory language is used, clear sentence structures are used. APA format is correct.	The paper is organized. Occasional grammatical or word errors are present. Non-discriminatory language and clear sentence structures are used. A few unclear word choices are present. APA format is used.	The paper is somewhat organized. Several errors are present. Language is discriminatory in nature. Sentence structures are unclear and word choices are confusing. APA format is incorrect.	The paper is poorly organized. Many errors and discriminatory language are present. Sentence structures are poor, word choices are confusing, and APA format is not used.

APPENDIX C

Special Populations Paper and Presentation

Assignment Value: 30 points (20 for the written portion, 10 for the presentation portion)

Due Date: Thursday, June 11th

Identify an issue or topic related to the larger political, social, economic, legal, and cultural context of schools that impacts educational opportunities for students with special needs as well as the rights of their families and caregivers. Prepare a 5 page report analyzing relevant statutes, regulations, and court cases that are pertinent to the issue, specifically as related to students with disabilities, English language learners, student race, economic challenges, or other significant disadvantages impacting student learning and educational opportunities. This 5 page report should provide an overview of significant laws and policies and identify *recent* case law (within the past 5 years); although you may include one or two historic or landmark cases, as appropriate. The issue or topic must be directly related to the provision and protection of educational opportunities for all students. This report should be organized to provide an overview of the issue, a legal and ethical critique of the laws, policies and cases, a synthesis of impact on practice, and suggestions for future implementation strategies. A summary of the report will be shared with colleagues during an in-class presentation. Students will have approximately 20 minutes for an in-class presentation to summarize the policies, laws, regulations, key ideas, and strategies emerging from their legal updates report. The presentation should include time for questions, discussion, and interaction with colleagues.

Special Populations Paper Assessment Rubric

	Exceeds Expectations 4	Meets Expectations 3	Approaching Expectations 2	Falls Below Expectations 1	Score/ Level
Introduction 5%	Analysis begins with a clear and concise statement of purpose. The introduction provides a comprehensive overview.	Analysis begins with a brief statement of purpose. The introduction provides a basic overview.	Analysis begins with an unclear or limited statement of purpose. The introduction fails to provide a sufficient overview.	Statement of purpose is confusing and unclear. The introduction fails to provide an overview.	
ELCC 5.5 Candidates understand and can promote social justice within a school to ensure that individual student needs inform all aspects of schooling. 20%	The candidate's written analysis of school policies and practices is outstanding and reveals clear commitment to promote equity and social justice for all	The candidate's written analysis of school policies and practices is thorough and reveals commitment to promote equity and social justice for all students.	The candidate's written analysis of school policies and practices is sufficient and reveals commitment to promote equity and social justice for all students.	The candidate's written analysis of school policies and practices is minimal and fails to reveal commitment to promote equity and social justice for all students.	

	students.				
ELCC 6.2 Candidate understands local, district, state, and national decisions affecting student learning. 20%	The candidate provides extensive discussion of the local, district, state and national policies, laws and court decisions that affect student learning.	The candidate provides sufficient discussion of the local, district, state and national policies, laws and court decisions that affect student learning.	The candidate provides limited discussion of the local, district, state and national policies, laws and court decisions that affect student learning.	The candidate provides insufficient discussion of the local, district, state and national policies, laws and court decisions that affect student learning.	
ELCC 5.4 Candidates understand and can evaluate the potential moral and legal consequences of decision making in the school. 15%	The candidate identifies at least 3-4 ethical (moral) and legal principles from highly relevant sources that support decision making about the identified topic/issue.	The candidate identifies at least 3-4 ethical (moral) and legal principles from appropriate sources that support decision making about the identified topic/issue.	The candidate identifies 2-3 ethical (moral) and legal principles from acceptable sources that reasonably support decision making about the identified topic/issue.	The candidate identified only 2 ethical (moral) and legal principles from questionable sources that insufficiently support decision making about the identified topic/issue.	
ELCC 6.1 Candidate advocates for school students, families, and caregivers. 15%	The candidate's written analysis includes clear and specific reference to the leader's role as an advocate committed to overcoming complex causes of poverty and disadvantages in education.	The candidate's written analysis includes several references to the leader's role as an advocate committed to overcoming complex causes of poverty and disadvantages in education.	The candidate's written analysis includes minimal reference to the leader's role as an advocate committed to overcoming complex causes of poverty and disadvantages in education.	The candidate's written analysis fails to include references to the leader's role as an advocate committed to overcoming complex causes of poverty and disadvantages in education.	
Discussion of information and references is useful and instructive 15%	The candidate gathers at least 8 high quality reference sources; provides clear & thorough discussion; and explains applicability of references.	The candidate gathers 6-8 references, but not all are from high quality sources; provides solid discussion; and explains applicability of references.	The candidate gathers at least 6 references sources, but few are from high quality sources; provides some discussion; and weakly explains applicability of the references.	The candidate gathers insufficient and poor quality sources; provides insufficient discussion; and poorly explains applicability of the references.	
Organization, mechanics and proofing of the paper 10%	The paper is well-organized and error-free; non-discriminatory language is	The paper is organized. Occasional grammatical or word errors are present. Non-	The paper is somewhat organized. Several errors are present. Language is discriminatory in	The paper is poorly organized. Many errors and discriminatory language are present. Sentence	

	used, clear sentence structures are used. APA format is correct.	discriminatory language and clear sentence structures are used. A few unclear word choices are present. APA format is used.	nature. Sentence structures are unclear and word choices are confusing. APA format is incorrect.	structures are poor, word choices are confusing, and APA format is not used.	
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Special Population Presentation
(Assignment Value: 10 Points)

Student Name _____

Topic _____

Presentation

- | | | |
|--|-------|------------|
| Issue and legal context are clearly presented | _____ | (1 point) |
| Cases are identified & key points explained | _____ | (2 points) |
| Synthesis of impact on practice is clear | _____ | (1 point) |
| Suggestions for future implementation strategies are clear | _____ | (1 point) |
| Presentation is clear and accurate | _____ | (1 point) |
| Summary of overall key points is provided (hand-out) | _____ | (2 points) |

Discussion/Engagement

- | | | |
|--|-------|-------------|
| Able to engage colleagues in discussion
(<i>e.g.</i> , interactive; opportunity for questions and input) | _____ | (1 point) |
| Overall communication | _____ | (1 point) |
| Total Points | _____ | (10 points) |

Instructor Comments: