Educational Professionalism
Ethics and the Law

Dr Nick Scarfo
Session One

- Welcome and Introductions
- Overview of the course
- Pre-test
- Assignments and readings
- Case study
Main Themes of the Course

- Legal – legislation and regulations
- Ethical Responsibilities in light of the Social and Educational Context of Schools
- A Delicate Balance
Session One - Objectives

- Introduce Educational Legal Framework related to Ontario
- Explore ways in which knowledge and understanding of educational law can support teaching practice
- Pre-test Law
Course Outline

- Pepper site
- Assignments
  - Critical Incident
  - Group presentation
  - Final Law Test
  - Participation and professionalism
Case Study

- I Can’t Get No Satisfaction
Readings for Next Class

- *Education Act*: ss. 264, 265 - See p. 139 (Scarfo/Zuker)
- *Regulation 298* ss. 11, 20-22 – See p. 175 (Scarfo/Zuker) Regulation made under the Teaching Profession Act
Legal Context of Education

- Video Clip
- Legislative Hierarchy
- Charter of Rights and Freedoms
- Powers and Duties of Teachers
- Education Act
- Regulation 298
- Sign up sheet for presentations/readings
Dress Code

- Can you tell students what they can or cannot wear to school?
- What legislative regulation may support your answer?
Legislative Hierarchy

- Charter of Rights and Freedoms (Federal)
- **Rights and freedoms in Canada**
- 1. The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* guarantees the rights and freedoms set out in it subject only to such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.
2. Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms:

(a) freedom of conscience and religion;
(b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication;
(c) freedom of peaceful assembly; and
(d) freedom of association.

T-shirt case
Legislative Hierarchy

- Charter of Rights and Freedoms (Federal)
- Education Act (Provincial)
- Regulations
- Policies
- School Board Policies and Procedures (local)
- School Policies and Procedures
Legislative Hierarchy

- Education Act
  - Bills
  - Guidelines
  - Regulations
  - Memoranda
    - Program/Policy
    - Records/Data
  - Registers
    - OSR
    - School Board Policies
    - School Policies
Powers and Duties of Teachers
In groups discuss examples of a duty a teacher may have and a power that a teacher may have. List 3 powers and 3 duties that teachers have.

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Power

- How
  - Instructional Strategies

Duty

- What
  - Curriculum
WHERE?

Education Act 264

Regulation 298

O.C.T. Standards of Practice

The Ontario School Code of Conduct
Duty of a teacher and a temporary teacher to...

See p. 130 Scarfo/Zuker

Teach diligently and faithfully the classes or subjects assigned to the teacher by the principal.

Inculcate by precept and example for religion and the principals of Judaeo-Christian morality and the highest regard for truth, justice, loyalty, love of country, humanity, benevolence, sobriety, industry, frugality, purity, temperance, and all other virtues.

To assist in developing co-operation and co-ordination of effort among the staff of the school.

Maintain, under the direction of the principal, proper order and discipline in the teacher’s classroom and while on duty in the school and on the school ground.
Regulation 298 outlines duties of teachers regarding their obligation to cooperate with the principal in ensuring a positive learning environment: See p. 191 Scarfo/Zuker

20. In addition to the duties of the teacher under the Act and by the board, a teacher shall:

(h) co-operate with the principal and other teachers to establish and maintain consistent disciplinary practices in the school
O.C.T. STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

Commitment to Students and Student Learning
Professional Knowledge
Professional Practice
Leadership in Learning Communities
Ongoing Professional Learning

“Thanks for coming in. We’ll get back to you as soon as we lower our expectations.”
Sign Up Sheet for Presentations

- Topics
- 2-3 per group
- Dates as listed
- See course outline for details

presentations topics signupSept2015.docx
Readings for Next Class


- 1. Regulation 274 – Seniority Hiring Rule
- 2. Nova Scotia’s Cyber Safety Act
- 3. The Search of Students by School Officials - Colin Ballosingh and Peter Thorning
- 4. Untangling the Web - The Internet and Schools
  Robert W. Weir

- Articles available in PDF on Pepper
Consultant’s Line

- Mini-scenarios
- Form two lines facing each other
- Discuss situation and determine course of action
School boards spend large amounts of money on legal counsel and litigation.

Teachers still enter the profession with little or no knowledge of legal issues related to circumstances they face repeatedly in the classroom.

Preventing Legal Headaches

Vicki Petzko

Principal Leadership, Volume 1, Number 8, 2001
Summary

- Historical and Political Landscape
- When I went to school ...
Questions??
Thank You

- Have a great week!!