

Texas A&M University- San Antonio
Department of Educator and Leadership Preparation
EDAD 5383: Public School Law

A. MAJOR COURSE DESCRIPTION/REQUIREMENT

This course will discuss federal and state legal regulations as they relate to public school administration. Students will explore the application of significant court decisions as they relate to school leadership. Particular emphasis is placed on the rights and responsibilities of students, teachers, and school leaders. (Domain 4. Executive Leadership: Communication and Organizational Leadership).

B. LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The students in this class will be able to:

- SLO# 1. Identify the various sources of law that impact administrators, teachers, and students.
- SLO#2. Determine how to respond within the law to controversies that involve religion
- SLO#3. Determine the major laws that provide protections for students with disabilities
- SLO#4. Determine the status of student free expression rights.
- SLO#5. Determine the various legal issues involving teachers' substantive rights in schools.
- SLO#6. Identify the duties of school boards, superintendents, and principals as listed in the law.
- SLO#7. List the legal requirements for site-based decision making at the campus level.
- SLO#8. Demonstrate expertise researching, analyzing, and organizing information directly related to legal issue in Texas.
- SLO#9. Recognize the relationship between federal and state government in regards to education.
- SLO#10. Analyze the definitions and context of language used in the Texas Principal Competencies as they relate to public school law.
- SLO#11. Analyze the sources of law, the important cases, and pertinent applications for school administrators, especially the principal.
- SLO#12. Demonstrate individual experience in finding, analyzing, and applying laws found in Texas codes that impact Texas public schools and administrators.

C. LECTURE OR DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Sources of Law
- Student Freedom of Expression
- Student Discipline and Safety
- Equal Educational Opportunity
- Students with Special Needs
- Federal Constitutional and Statutory Rights of School Employees
- Teacher Employment and Human Relations

D. REQUIRED OR RECOMMENDED READINGS

Walsh, J., & Orman, S. (2022). The educator's guide to Texas school law, 10th Edition. Austin: University of Texas Press.