

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary**

Course Prefix and Number: EDU 295

Credits: 3

Course Title: Topics in Education: School Law for Teachers

Course Description: Examines the federal and state laws affecting the duties of teachers in ensuring the rights of students. Investigates the laws which protect teachers from litigation. Discusses the impact of the United States Constitution and landmark cases so that participants may better understand how the law has influenced the American public school. Employs the Code of Virginia as the foundation for state and local policy. Prerequisite: Must be a licensed and/or in-service PK-12 teacher/administrator or receive approval of the program head. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose: This course is offered to provide in-service teachers with a deeper understanding of school law. Additionally, it may be used as licensure renewal credit for most teachers. This course serves an obvious need due to the lack of school law coursework in teacher preparation programs and the numerous legal hazards to which teachers are exposed.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

Prerequisite: Must be a licensed and/or in-service preK-12 teacher/administrator or receive approval of the program head

Course Objectives:

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to

- a. Describe the role of teacher as exemplar of citizenship to his/her students;
- b. Describe the historical perspective of laws which have influenced the American school;
- c. Identify potential violations of First Amendment and other constitutional rights which may arise during the teacher's normal routine;
- d. Discuss the influence of federal acts (such as IDEA, NCLB, and Title IX) on current practice; and
- e. Describe his/her rights as an employee and the appropriate protocols to follow should legal action become necessary.

Major Topics to Be Included:

- a. Constitutional law
- b. Code of Virginia
- c. Student rights
- d. Teacher rights
- e. School policies and regulations

Effective Date of Course Content Summary: December 9, 2015