

EDAD 526 – 01W - USING THE LAW IN EDUCATION PRACTICE

COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer II 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Sharon Ross, Ed.D.

Office Location: Ed. North, 2nd Floor

Office Hours: Tuesday 9 to 4; other days as needed and as scheduled by students and professor

Office Phone: 903-886-5520 Cell: 903-245-8712

University Email Address: Sharon.Ross@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: **email, text, phone**

Communication Response Time: 12 to 24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Walsh, J., & Orman, S. The educator's guide to Texas school law. Tenth Edition. Austin, Texas: University of Texas Press.

American Psychological Association. Publishing manual of the American Psychological Association . Washington, DC: Author.

Course Description

EDAD 526 serves as an in-depth examination federal and state school law for educational leaders addressing legal issues that impact the operation of public schools.

Student Learning Outcomes (Should be measurable; observable; use action verbs)

1. The student will demonstrate familiarity with terminology in the field of law as it applies to education. (19 TAC Chapter 149 Subchapter BB Administrator Standards Standard 3--Executive Leadership. The principal is responsible for modeling a consistent focus on and commitment to improving student learning).
2. The student will articulate an understanding of basic legal concepts through examination and discussion of relevant court cases. (Domain III Human Capital. Competency 006 The entry level principal knows how to prompt high-quality teaching by using selection, placement, and retention practices to promote teacher excellence and growth. Descriptive Statement D Implements effective, appropriate, and legal strategies for the recruitment, screening, hiring, assignment, induction , development, evaluation, promotion, retention, discipline, and dismissal of campus staff. TAC 241.15 Principal Curriculum Standards (1) Principal Standard I – (b) Learner Centered Values and Ethics of Leadership. A principal is an educational leader who promotes the success of all students by acting with integrity and fairness and in an ethical manner.
3. The student will demonstrate critical analysis by differentiating factual and

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evidentiary data. (TAC 241.15 Principal Curriculum Standards

(1) Principal Standard I – (b) Learner-Centered Values and Ethics of Leadership. A principal is an educational leader who promotes the success of all students by acting with integrity and fairness and in an ethical manner. At the campus level, a principal understands, values, and is able to: (2) implement policies and procedures that encourage all campus personnel to comply with Chapter 247 of this title (relating to Educators' Code of Ethics)

4. The student will comprehend and utilize basic legal tests applied by the judiciary in their application to factual situations and cases. (TAC 241.15 Principal Curriculum Standards(1) Principal Standard I – (b) Learner-Centered Values and Ethics of Leadership. A principal is an educational leader who promotes the success of all students by acting with integrity and fairness and in an ethical manner. At the campus level, a principal understands, values, and is able to:(1) model and promote the highest standard of conduct, ethical principles, and integrity in decision making, actions, and behaviors; (2) implement policies and procedures that encourage all campus personnel to comply with Chapter 247 of this title (relating to Educators' Code of Ethics); (3) model and promote the continuous and appropriate development of all learners in the campus community;

5. The student will gain an awareness of major legal resources and demonstrate the ability to use those resources. Domain III Human Capital. Competency 006 The entry level principal knows how to prompt high-quality teaching by using selection, placement, and retention practices to promote teacher excellence and growth. Descriptive Statement D Implements effective, appropriate, and legal strategies for the recruitment, screening, hiring, assignment, induction , development, evaluation, promotion, retention, discipline, and dismissal of campus staff.

6. The student will gain an in-depth understanding of landmark cases in various areas of school law. (TAC 241.15 Principal Curriculum Standards (1) Principal Standard I – (b) Learner-Centered Values and Ethics of Leadership. A principal is an educational leader who promotes the success of all students by acting with integrity and fairness and in an ethical manner. At the campus level, a principal understands, values, and is able to: (4) promote awareness of learning differences, multicultural awareness, gender sensitivity, and ethnic appreciation in the campus community)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Use of personal computer; Word; basics of D2L; video recording. See other technical skills below.

Instructional Methods

Throughout this semester of formal discourse, the student as scholar practitioner will embark upon a pathway of applying scholarly knowledge gained while navigating organizational practices in practical ways, solving district and campus issues. Non-negotiable is the expectation that scholar practitioner

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will employ principles designed to apply critical thinking skills and effective communication skills (Weiler, J., & Virtue, E., 2024) when creating improvement interventions.

Instructionally, assignments were designed based on the professional practitioner's responsibility to lead teams into evaluating current initiatives, utilizing improvement science and finding improvement practices that yield high impact results. When investigating law practices and situational concerns related to school law, the leader should be able to understand how to navigate through occurrences arising that may cause the need for legal interventions.

The instructor has designed the course to address Malcom Knowles four principles of the adult learning theory of andragogy as reported by Williams (2023):

- * Personalized Learning Experiences
- * Competency Based Education
- * Flexible Learning
- * Mentorship

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Reading materials, attending any assigned zooms, contacting professor for clarification, posting assignments in the correction place.

Do not suffer in silence. If you do not contact the professor, you are suffering in silence. I am here to answer your questions and provide you with an education of excellence.

Course Expectations

Discussion Board Instructions – 50pts : There are no set times for you enter the board, but discussion should occur throughout the module. You must enter the discussion and post for each module. Read each prompt and post at least one substantive response to that prompt. This usually takes around 150 words. Students will complete an initial post to the prompt and one response post to other students posts. Two posts are required - 1 initial post and 1 response posts. Ground your initial posts with references from your textbook and readings from the module. The response post may also include the relating of real-world experiences to the discussions or building on other's comments with alternative solutions; pointing out problems or adding another dimension to the discussion. "I agree" or "yes/no" will not be considered as quality responses and will not receive credit. Make sure to share your thoughts and experiences. Always address the person by name to whose post you are responding.

Student Learning Outcome: The student will articulate an understanding of basic legal concepts through examination and discussion of relevant court cases. The student will gain an awareness of major legal resources and demonstrate the ability to use those resources. (TAC 241.15 Principal Curriculum Standards (1) Principal Standard I – (b) Learner-Centered Values and Ethics of Leadership. A principal is an educational leader who promotes the success of all students by acting with integrity and fairness and in an ethical manner). (19 TAC Chapter 149 Subchapter BB Administrator Standards Standard 3--Executive Leadership. The principal is responsible for modeling a consistent focus on and commitment to improving student learning). (Domain III: Competency 6: The entry level principal

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knows how to prompt high-quality teaching by using selection, placement, and retention practices to promote teacher excellence and growth.)

Assessment Method: Your contributions to the discussion forums will be graded for Quality, references and timeliness using a Discussion Forum Grading Rubric found in DocSharing.

Assessment Assignment 25pts:

(The entry level principal knows how to prompt high-quality teaching by using selection, placement, and retention practices to promote teacher excellence and growth.)

A short legal knowledge & skills assessment has been assigned with each module.

Student Learning Outcome: The student will comprehend and utilize basic legal tests applied by the judiciary in their application to factual situations and cases. The student will demonstrate critical analysis by differentiating factual and evidentiary data. (TAC 241.15 Principal Curriculum Standards (1) Principal Standard I – (b) Learner-Centered Values and Ethics of Leadership. A principal is an educational leader who promotes the success of all students by acting with integrity and fairness and in an ethical manner). (19 TAC Chapter 149 Subchapter BB Administrator Standards Standard 3—Executive Leadership. The principal is responsible for modeling a consistent focus on and commitment to improving student learning). Domain III: Competency 6: The entry level principal knows how to prompt high-quality teaching by using selection, placement, and retention practices to promote teacher excellence and growth.

Video/Newsletter Assignment 25pts – The student will create a 3-minute video or a section in a teacher newsletter to represent a professional development opportunity providing educators with legal training in the various topics studied in each module. In each video or newsletter, the aspiring leader will design a PD that highlights a topic, potential cases from current events, board policy and educator code of conduct that guides correct behavior and any procedural systems in place worthy of mentioning. The goal for the aspiring administrator is to educate and train all employees, being proactive, rather than reactive.

Final Exam 100pts – The final exam will be a 2-page narrative from the student religion topics discussed. There will be instructions attached to the exam on the appropriate and required use of APA 7th edition style for writing.

(1) Principal Standard I – (b) Learner-Centered Values and Ethics of Leadership. A principal is an educational leader who promotes the success of all students by acting with integrity and fairness and in an ethical manner. At the campus level, a principal understands, values, and is able to: (2) implement policies and procedures that encourage all campus personnel to comply with Chapter 247 of this title (relating to Educators' Code of Ethics).

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Discussion Boards	50 points per prompt (4)-	200
Video/Newsletter PD	25 points/assignment (4)-	100
Assessment Assignment	25 points/assignment (4)-	100
Final Exam Narrative	100 points	<u>100</u>
	Total	500

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades

A = 451- 500 Points

B = 401- 450 Points

C = 351- 400 Points

D = 301- 350 Points

F = 300 & > Points

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.

Assignments	20%
Discussions	20%
Assessments	25%
Final Exam	35%
TOTAL	100%

Course Outline/Calendar

Summer II 2026

Course Module	Assignment	Due Date	Time
Module 1	Accountability/Students & the Law/Student Speech		
	Discussion: Module 1	July 12	11:59pm
	Activity: Video or Newsletter	July 12	11:59pm
	Assessment	July 12	11:59pm
Module 2	Parent Rights/Child Abuse/Student Searches/Sexual Misconduct		
	Discussion: Module 2	July 19	11:59pm
	Activity: Video or Newsletter	July 19	11:59pm
	Assessment	July 12	11:59pm

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Module 3	Religion/Curriculum & Instructional Materials/Teachers and the Law		
	Discussion: Module 3	July 26	11:59pm
	Activity: Video or Newsletter	July 26	11:59pm
	Assessment	July 26	11:59pm
Module 4	Liability, Student Safety, Discipline and Students with Special Needs		
	Discussion Module 4	Aug. 2	11:59pm
	Activity: Video or Newsletter	Aug. 2	11:59pm
	Assessment	Aug. 2	11:59pm

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor, Dr. Sharon Ross at 903-245-8712 (cell) or by email Sharon.Ross@etamu.edu

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Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COURSE

CWID and Password

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

Technology-Related Issues

Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students will need reliable computer and internet access for this course. Students must be able to effectively use myLeo email, myLeo Online D2L, and Microsoft Office.

Learning Management System (LMS) – D2L

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are the technical requirements:

- View the [Learning Management System Requirements Webpage](#).
- Learn more on the [LMS Browser Support Webpage](#).

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found on the [Brightspace Support Webpage](#).

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COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor. Correspondence will always be through university email (your “myLeo” mail) and announcements in myLeo online (D2L). You will not RECEIVE email through D2L, so be sure to check your ETAMU email for communication. Students are encouraged to check university email daily.

Include the Following in Emails with Instructor:

- Course name and subject in the subject line
- Salutation (Good afternoon, Dr. Ross)
- Proper email etiquette (no “text” emails – use proper grammar and punctuation)
- Student name and CWID after the body of the email (possibly add to student signature on email)

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The [Code of Student Conduct](#) is described in detail online in the [Student Guidebook](#).

Students should also consult the [Rules of Netiquette Webpage](#) for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#).

Academic Integrity Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

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[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Use of Artificial Intelligence

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

East Texas A&M University
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu
Website: [Office of Student Disability Services](#)

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national

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origin, disability, age, genetic information, or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and ETAMU Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health – Counseling Services

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.etamu.edu/counseling-center

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



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EDAD 526: School Law

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