

Course Synthesis  
EDU 5103 Educational Governance and Policy  
Professor Carla D'Ambrosio  
Spring 2013

EDU 5103 this course focused on the role of policy, governance, educational law, and the work of school boards of education. One of the more notable aspects of the course was Professor D'Ambrosio reflections on her professional experiences as a school superintendent. The cohort also evaluated related case studies in an effort to deepen our understanding of school governance.

One critical aspect highlighted throughout the course was the need for school administrators to be familiar with education law. Education law dictates the procedure for the development and implementation of school policy. As Dr. D'Ambrosio stated, "School policy must be clear, rational, and supported by law. Are law references cited?" We discussed how problems occur when the board violates its own policy.

The course culminated with PowerPoint presentations and related papers regarding contemporary issues. As a cohort we analyzed several court rulings such as, *W.V. vs. Barnett*, *Island Trees S.D. vs. Pico*, and *Engel vs. Vitale*. We also evaluated our own school board policies, interviewed school officials and analyzed simulated case studies relative to school governance concern.

Educational Governance and Policy as our final course combined the practical and theoretical underpinnings of educational administration. The clarity provided by the course in terms of policy development, boards of education, and educational law will serve all of us as we continue both in our doctoral studies and more importantly our careers.