

Call for Authors
Religion and Law in Public Schools
Education Law Association
Second Edition

The editorial team for the forthcoming second edition of *Religion and Law in Public Schools* invites scholars, attorneys, and education policy experts to submit chapter proposals for inclusion in this updated volume. The book examines the complex and evolving relationship between religion and public education through doctrinal analysis, policy interpretation, and practical guidance.

The first edition brought together leading scholars and practitioners to address foundational constitutional principles governing religion in public schools. The second edition expands and updates this work to reflect significant legal developments, emerging policy challenges, and evolving debates regarding religion, public education, and democratic governance.

This new edition will include a revised chapter structure and standardized pedagogical format consistent with Education Law Association publications, designed to ensure the volume serves as both a scholarly resource and a practical guide for educators, administrators, attorneys, and graduate programs in educational leadership and education law.

Recent legal and policy developments—including conflicts surrounding religious expression, parental rights, employee accommodation, religious charter schools, and emerging issues such as artificial intelligence and curriculum—underscore the need for renewed scholarly engagement with the constitutional and statutory framework governing religion in public schools.

Book Editorial Team

Brian J. Boggs, Ph.D., J.D., is an Assistant Professor of Policy and Educational Leadership. He has written extensively on educational organizational complexity, specifically as it affects urban schools, policy, and the intersectionality of law and education.

David Hostetler, J.D., M.A., M.A.T.S., is an associate professor of education law, leadership, ethics, and the humanities at Appalachian State University. He is also a North Carolina practicing education attorney.

Don Cooper is the director of civic initiatives at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, a senior fellow at the National Charter Schools Founders Library, and a Ph.D. candidate in political science at Wayne State University (Detroit).

Tia Nickens, M.Ed is a current law student at the University of Tennessee, working to further expand opportunities for those who hold the same identities as her.

General Chapter Structure and Lengths

The second edition includes a significantly revised chapter structure, updated topical areas, and a standardized pedagogical format consistent with Education Law Association publications. We have broadened the scope of the book to include new doctrinal developments, contemporary challenges facing schools, and emerging issues such as AI-generated curriculum, religious charter schools, parental rights conflicts, and employee religious accommodation standards. Each chapter will follow a similar format and structure to guide the reader across various interconnected topics related to education and the law in public education. Final chapters should be approximately 25-30 pages in Bluebook format. This will create a cohesive learning structure and includes the following:

- **Learning Objectives** – Each chapter will begin with clearly articulated objectives.
- **Introduction/Abstract** – Each chapter will begin with an introduction to the topic, executive summary, and key legal concepts covered.
- **Legal Context and Analysis** – This section will typically be the bulk of the chapter including, historic-philosophical background and legal context of the chapter’s theme. The author will then address foundational legal principles, cases, and pertinent statutes.
- **Contemporary Issues** – This section will explore the current context of the law in our ever-changing political and cultural environment, including examining real-world examples and potential issues and questions.
- **Teaching and Practical Notes** – The chapter will conclude with teaching suggestions for better understanding, other suggested materials, and practitioner-orient practical considerations.
- **Discussion Questions** – Finally, the chapter will end with 4-5 key discussion questions designed to highlight key concepts and facilitate analytical reflection and application.

Open Chapter Areas

The editorial team is particularly seeking authors for the following chapters:

- (1) Public Funding of Religious Education
 - School voucher and scholarship programs (*Zelman, Espinoza v. Montana Dept. of Revenue*, 591 U.S. ___ (2020))
 - State constitutional “Blaine Amendments” and their interaction with federal Free Exercise claims
- (2) Public Prayer and Religious Expression at Official Events
 - Graduation ceremonies (*Lee v. Weisman*)

- School board meetings (*Town of Greece v. Galloway*, 572 U.S. 565 (2014))
- (3) Religious Displays and Curriculum
- Teaching creationism or intelligent design (*Edwards v. Aguillard*, 482 U.S. 578 (1987); *Kitzmiller v. Dover Area Sch. Dist.*, 400 F. Supp. 2d 707 (M.D. Pa. 2005))
 - Religious symbolism on school property
 - Government Speech and Endorsement
 - Government sponsorship or implied endorsement of religion through policy or symbolism
 - Ceremonial deism and legal boundaries of “non-coercive” religious references
- (4) Free Exercise and Religious Expression
- Student prayer and Bible study groups (*Tinker v. Des Moines*, 393 U.S. 503 (1969))
 - Equal Access Act and student religious clubs (*Board of Education v. Mergens*, 496 U.S. 226 (1990))
 - Clothing and religious symbols (e.g., hijabs, yarmulkes)
- (5) Free Speech and Viewpoint Discrimination
- Distribution of religious literature (*Morgan v. Swanson*, 659 F.3d 359 (5th Cir. 2011))
 - Graduation speeches and religious references (*Corder v. Lewis Palmer Sch. Dist.*, 566 F.3d 1219 (10th Cir. 2009))
- (6) Protection Against Coercion and Parental-based Claims
- Parental rights
 - Opt-out provisions for curriculum (sex ed, evolution, release time, religious absences)
 - Parental rights vs. school mandates (*Fields v. Palmdale Sch. Dist.*, 427 F.3d 1197 (9th Cir. 2005))
 - Parents claiming retaliation
- (7) Free Exercise and Accommodation
- Religious accommodations under Title VII and *TWA v. Hardison*, 432 U.S. 63 (1977); clarified by *Groff v. DeJoy*, 600 U.S. ___ (2023)
 - Sabbath observance, dress code exemptions, dietary requirements
- (8) Religious Expression at Work
- Employee prayer or religious expression in classrooms or staff meetings
 - Limits under the Establishment Clause when acting as state actors
- (9) Teacher/Coach-led Prayer and Religious Activities
- *Kennedy v. Bremerton Sch. Dist.*, 597 U.S. ___ (2022)
 - Balancing private speech and state endorsement
 - Retaliation and Discrimination
 - Claims of adverse employment action for religious belief or expression
 - EEOC enforcement and school district policies

*Cases may vary, but these are general concepts.

Proposal Requirements

Interested authors should submit a **1–2 page chapter proposal** outlining:

- Proposed chapter title
- The primary legal and policy issues to be addressed
- The analytical framework or direction of the chapter
- Key statutes, cases, or doctrinal developments to be examined
- The intended contribution of the chapter to the overall volume

Proposals will be evaluated based on scholarly expertise, relevance to the volume's themes, and the ability to contribute to a comprehensive and practice-oriented treatment of religion and law in public education.

Submission Instructions

Proposals should be submitted by **April 30, 2026**, to: rprojectintern@gmail.com

Questions regarding the project may be directed to:

Dr. Brian J. Boggs

University of Michigan–Dearborn

brboggs@umich.edu

Tentative Timeline

Proposal submission deadline: **April 30, 2026**

Author notifications: **June 1, 2026**

Chapter drafts due: **December 15, 2026**

Author Responsibilities

Selected authors will be expected to:

- Submit a full chapter manuscript consistent with editorial guidelines
- Incorporate current legal developments and relevant case law
- Follow Bluebook citation standards
- Participate in editorial review and revision as needed

This publication is intended to serve as a scholarly yet practice-oriented resource for educators, attorneys, policy makers, and graduate programs examining the intersection of religion and public education.