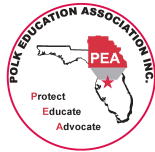


Polk Education Association
Professional Development Course Catalog
2025-2026 School Year



**Polk Education Association
Professional Development Course Catalog**

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Polk Education Association Professional Development Course Catalog

About Polk Education Association

The Polk Education Association is your union representing Teachers, Paraeducators and ESP/Secretaries working in the Polk School District. We bargain your contracts and guarantee your contractual rights.

Elected Officers:

Stephanie Yocum, President
Kat Nickell, Executive Vice President
Patrick Bentley, Secretary/Treasurer
Michele Masse, VP of Paraeducators

Staff:

Service Unit Representatives
Branden Lane, East Area Schools
Nadia Hernandez, West Area Schools

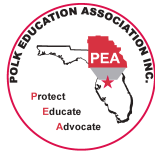
Associate Staff:

Lisa Francoeur, Membership Secretary
Nieves Ramos, Clerk/Receptionist

PEA Professional Development Committee

While PEA has provided free professional development for members for a number of years, the official Professional Development Committee was created in the 2019 school year. Current chair, Kat Nickell, along with trainers and other committee members are working diligently on expanding the course offerings and opportunities available to members. The committee's goal is to become the preferred option for professional development among Polk county educators and staff and a recognized name in the state-wide educator's union.

PEA is committed to providing educator-created, educator-led, research-based, high-quality professional development that meets the needs, wants, and demands of our members. Our professional development is consistently applicable to the classroom/school setting and goes beyond compliance to truly engage and inspire our members and potential members as they learn the skills and absorb the knowledge for continuous career development.



Polk Education Association Professional Development Course Catalog

Course Offerings

PEA ESE/Students with Disabilities (1.0 & 2.0)

online/face-to-face: 18 hours (20 in-service points)

The PEA ESE 20 Hr. Course is a 6 module course designed to provide basic information about supporting students identified as needing ESE services. It satisfies the requirement for 20 hours of SWD-specific points for teacher recertification. Participants must attend all modules and complete all assignments in order to earn points for the course. Our original course has been updated and we now offer a new (2.0) class for those who have taken our course previously (18 hours synchronous learning, 2 hours independent study/assignments on Google Classroom)

FEA/PEA 40-Hour Reading Requirement (DL) Course

online/face-to-face: 30 hours (40 inservice points)

This 40 hour Reading/ESE course was created to fulfill the new Florida statute requirement for teacher recertification under rule 6A-4.0051. This course prepares educators to offer explicit, systematic, and sequential multisensory instruction in reading, while also learning about the science behind and interventions required for students with reading challenges including ELLs, dyslexia, and a variety of disabilities. (30 hr synchronous learning; 10 hours independent study)

Classroom Management Bootcamp--Foundations of Effective Teaching

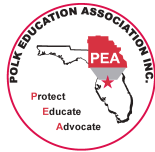
face-to-face: 6 hours (10 inservice points)

This course is designed to provide educators with the understanding of what research-based strategies effective teachers implement at the start of the school year. Participants will be able to take the strategies learned and apply them to their own classrooms. This course is targeted to first, second, and third-year teachers, but is open to all interested members. (6 hours synchronous, 4 hours independent study)

Building Relationships in Your Classroom

face-to-face: 6 hours (12 in-service points)

This course is designed to equip educators with the skills and knowledge to foster classroom community. This is accomplished through cultivating relationships with students, teaching students to build relationships with one another, facilitating student agency, and promoting collaboration in the classroom. (6 hours synchronous, 6 hours independent study)



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General Knowledge Exam Prep: Math

online/face-to-face: 6 hours (6 general in-service points)

This course offers a basic overview of the knowledge and skills addressed in the on the General Knowledge exam, specifically the math section. (synchronous learning)

General Knowledge Exam Prep: ELA

online/face-to-face: 6 hours (6 general in-service points)

This course offers a basic overview of the knowledge and skills addressed on the General Knowledge exam specifically the ELA (reading and writing) section. (synchronous learning)

PEA ParaPro Test Prep

face-to-face: 6 hours (6 general in-service points)

This course offers a basic overview of the skills and knowledge required to pass the ParaPro exam including reading, math, and writing. The course also walks participants through the test specifications and testing strategies to help them succeed on the exam.

Teacher Toolbox Series:

TTS: Starting Strong: Day 1 Strategies for a Great Year

face-to-face: 2 hours (4 points)

Based on AFT's renowned "Foundations of Effective Teaching" course, this class will provide tips, tools, activities, and best practices to help teachers meet students where they are at, start building relationships, and create a classroom community from day 1 (and throughout the first week)! Strategies include: Classroom Set-Up, Greeting Students, Icebreakers, Rules and Procedures, Building Relationships (2 hour synchronous learning, 2 hours independent study)

TTS: Writing an Effective Referral

face-to-face: 2 hours (4 points)

This quick, 2 hour course is designed to give teachers the strategies and knowledge to know when to write a referral, and what to include in order to ensure the most effective outcomes, including information on legislative changes that impact your rights as a teacher surrounding discipline reporting and follow-up. (2 hour synchronous learning, 2 hours independent study)



Polk Education Association Professional Development Course Catalog

TTS: IEPs and 504 Basic

face-to-face: 2 hours (4 points)

Specific to Polk teachers and our reporting systems, learn how to read, follow, implement accommodations, and create (if your position includes this) an IEP and/or 504 plan to best serve our ESE/SWD students. (2 hour synchronous learning, 2 hours independent study)

TTS: ESOL in Your Classroom

face-to-face: 2 hours (4 points)

In this quick, 2 hour course, teachers will learn strategies for the classroom to best serve our ESOL population as well as information on following accommodations, requirements by law, documentation, etc. (2 hour synchronous learning, 2 hours independent study)

TTS: Grading: Objective, Equitable, and Manageable

face-to-face: 2 hours (4 points)

This quick, 2 hour course offers teachers strategies for creating a standards-based grading and reporting system that allows for objectivity and equitability while also offering time management strategies to allow quick grade input and turnaround. (2 hour synchronous learning, 2 hours independent study)

TTS: Collaborative Learning Strategies: Students Helping Students

face-to-face: 2 hours (4 points)

In this quick, 2 hour course, teachers will learn the importance of collaborative learning, walk through the use of a variety of collaborative structures, get advice on best-practices for collaborative learning, and leave with resources they can take back to their classrooms and use the next day! (2 hour synchronous learning, 2 hours independent study)

TTS: Avoiding Burnout: Helping Ourselves So We Can Help Students

face-to-face: 2 hours (4 points)

In this quick, 2 hour course, teachers will learn the importance of self-care, boundary setting, and looking after those around us, both colleagues and students, to ensure they are taking care of themselves, as well. (2 hour synchronous learning, 2 hours independent study)



Polk Education Association Professional Development Course Catalog

Other Programs Available

Support Sessions/“For YOU Fridays”

Support for new teachers, SAO creation, and more based on discussion and needs surveys, PEA is offering drop-in sessions where members can get free help on any aspect of their work (lesson planning, evaluation system, classroom management, Schoology, etc.). Members can show up at any point during the block to meet with other teachers and staff who can help, guide, or support on a variety of topics.

Educators Lending Library

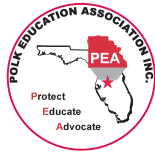
PEA offers a variety of educational books (classroom management, teaching strategies, exam prep, etc.) which are free to check out for members. Check Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, or come see what books are available (and feel free to suggest titles you would like to see).

Retirement Seminars

PEA is pleased to partner with Security Benefit to offer sessions that detail social security and the Florida Retirement System for those educators thinking about, planning for, or looking forward to retirement!

District Collaboration

Throughout the school year, PEA partners with PCPS to host, contribute, or participate in district events for new teachers, Paraprofessionals, ESPs, and individual schools to bring our educator-created, educator-led professional development into schools and offices throughout Polk.



Polk Education Association
Professional Development Course Catalog
2025-2026 PD Calendar of Events

Register for our courses any time on our website calendar: <https://www.polkea.com/calendar>

(please pay close attention to the date, time, and location of each course)

Mon-Fri	July 14th-July 18th	10 am - 4 pm	PEA/FEA 40-Hour Reading Requirement	PEA Office (Bartow)
Thursday	July 31st	10 am - 4 pm	Classroom Management Bootcamp	PEA Office (Bartow)
Monday	August 4th	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Teacher Toolbox Series: Starting Strong: Day 1 Strategies for a Great Year	PEA Office (Bartow)
Tuesdays/Wednesday	Aug 19th, 20th, 26th, 27th, Sept 2nd, 3rd	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	ESE/SWD (1.0) 20-Hour Course	ZOOM
Wednesday	August 20th	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Teacher Toolbox Series: IEP & 504 Basics	ZOOM
Saturday	August 23rd	10 am - 4 pm	ParaPro Exam Prep	PEA Office (Bartow)
Wednesday	August 27th	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Teacher Toolbox Series: Grading: Objective, Equitable, and Manageable	ZOOM
Friday	August 29th	2:30 pm - 7:30 pm	For YOU Friday: SAO Support Session	PEA Office (Bartow)
Wednesday	September 3rd	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Teacher Toolbox Series: Writing an Effective Referral	ZOOM
Friday	September 5th	2:30 pm - 7:30 pm	For YOU Friday: SAO Support Session	PEA Office (Bartow)
Saturday	September 13th	10 am - 4 pm	General Knowledge Exam Prep (ELA)	PEA Office (Bartow)
Wednesday	September 24th	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Teacher Toolbox Series: ESOL Strategies for Your Classroom	ZOOM
Wednesday	October 1st	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Teacher Toolbox Series: Collaborative Learning Strategies: Students Helping Students	PEA Office (Bartow)
Saturday	October 4th	10 am - 4 pm	General Knowledge Exam Prep (Math)	PEA Office (Bartow)
Mon/Tue/Wed	October 6th, 7th, 8th	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	General Knowledge Exam Prep (ELA)	ZOOM
Sunday	October 12th	10 am - 4 pm	Building Relationships in Your Classroom	PEA Office (Bartow)
Mon-Wed	October 20th, 21st, 22nd	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	ParaPro Exam Prep	ZOOM



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Saturdays	Oct 18th, Oct 25th, & Nov 1st	10 am - 4 pm	ESE/SWD (2.0) 20-Hour Course	PEA Office (Bartow)
Wednesday	October 22nd	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Teacher Toolbox Series: Peer Coaching Workshop (session 1 of 4)	PEA Office (Bartow)
Mon/Tue/Wed /Sat/Sat/Mon/ Tue/Wed	November 3rd, 4th, 5th, 8th, 15th, 17th, 18th, 19th	Weeknights 5 pm - 8 pm Saturdays 10 am - 4 pm	Reading 40-Hour Requirement Course	HYBRID PEA Office (Bartow)/ Zoom
Wednesday	December 10th	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Teacher Toolbox Series: Avoiding Burnout	ZOOM
Wednesday	December 17th	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Teacher Toolbox Series: Peer Coaching Workshop (session 2 of 4)	PEA Office (Bartow)
Friday	January 9th	2:30 - 7:30 pm	For YOU Friday:SAO Support Session (Midyear Review/2nd Semester)	PEA Office (Bartow)
Tuesdays	January 13th, 20th, and 27th	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	ParaPro Exam Review	ZOOM
Saturdays	Jan 24th, 31st, & Feb 7th	10 am - 4 pm	ESE/SWD (1.0) 20-Hour Course	PEA Office (Bartow)
Wednesday	January 21st	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Teacher Toolbox Series: IEP & 504 Basics	ZOOM
Wednesday	January 28th	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Teacher Toolbox Series: Grading: Objective, Equitable, and Manageable	ZOOM
Wednesday	Feb 4th	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Teacher Toolbox Series: Peer Coaching Workshop (session 3 of 4)	PEA Office (Bartow)
Wednesday	February 11th	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Teacher Toolbox Series: Writing an Effective Referral	ZOOM
Wednesday	February 18th	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Teacher Toolbox Series: ESOL Strategies for Your Classroom	ZOOM
Saturday	February 21st	10 am - 4 pm	ParaPro Exam Review	PEA Office (Bartow)
Saturday	March 7th	10 am - 4 pm	Building Relationships in Your Classroom	PEA Office (Bartow)
Mon/Tue/Wed /Sat/Sat/Mon/ Tue/Wed	March 23rd, 24th, 25th, 28th, April 4th, 6th, 7th, 8th	Weeknights 5 pm - 8 pm Saturdays 10 am - 4 pm	Reading 40-Hour Requirement Course	HYBRID PEA Office (Bartow)/ Zoom
Wednesday	March 25th	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Teacher Toolbox Series: Collaborative Learning Strategies: Students Helping Students	PEA Office (Bartow)
Wednesday	April 1st	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Teacher Toolbox Series: Avoiding Burnout	PEA Office (Bartow)



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Tuesdays/Wednesdays	Apr 14th, 15th, 21st, 22st, 28th, & 29th	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	ESE/SWD (2.0) 20-Hour Course	ZOOM
Wednesday	April 8th	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Teacher Toolbox Series: Peer Coaching Workshop (session 4 of 4)	PEA Office (Bartow)
Saturday	April 11th	10 am - 4 pm	General Knowledge Exam Prep (ELA)	PEA Office (Bartow)
Sunday	April 12th	10 am - 4 pm	General Knowledge Exam Prep (Math)	PEA Office (Bartow)
Friday	April 24th	2:30 - 7:30 pm	For YOU Friday: SAO Support Session (Finalizing Your SAO)	PEA Office (Bartow)
Tue/Wed/Thur	June 2nd, 3rd, 4th	10 am - 4 pm	ESE/SWD (2.0) 20-Hour Course	PEA Office (Bartow)
Mon-Fri	June 22nd-26th	10 am - 4 pm	PEA Reading 40-Hour Requirement Course	PEA Office (Bartow)