

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN**  
**Department of Educational Organization and Leadership**

**Public School Finance**  
**Campus**  
**EOL 546**  
**Spring 2005**  
**Tuesdays 7 P.M – 9:50 P.M**

**Course Syllabus**

Instructor: Dr. Kern Alexander  
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Department of Educational Organization and Leadership

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**Course Description:**

This course is an advanced graduate study of financing public education systems in the United States, focusing on the social, economic, political, legal and technical dimensions of developing school finance policy for federal, state, and local governments, relating theory and research in public school finance to administrative practice in budgeting and financial administration.

**Course Rationale and Approach**

The rationale for this course is that all public school administrators need an understanding of how public schools are funded, what public policy options exist for improving funding, and on what normative and technical bases those policies might be evaluated. An important element of this course is the integration of finance issues with issues of priority setting, educational goals, curriculum, and general administrative practice at the school site level. Emphasis will be placed on principles and practices relating to Illinois public school finance.

**Expected Course Outcomes**

This course has the following general expected course outcomes:

1. Each student should be conversant with the field of public school finance and should be able to discuss pertinent policy issues in the field.
2. Each student should be familiar with the basic concepts and ideas in the field and should be able to apply them to practical problems in public school finance.

3. Each student should be able to analyze a proposed policy in the public school finance, evaluate public policy options, and make a recommendation for policy adoption.

These expected outcomes will be demonstrated through class discussion, group activities, research papers, and written examinations.

### **Required Text**

Kern Alexander and Richard Salmon, Public School Finance (Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1995).

### **Additional Text**

Richard A. King, Austin D. Swanson and Scott R. Sweetland, School Finance (Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2003).

### **Course Requirements and Grading**

There will be a comprehensive mid-term examination covering the first half of the course, worth thirty (30) points toward final grade.

There will be five (5) issue papers required, worth twenty (20) points. Due dates arranged.

There will be a comprehensive final examination covering the second half of the course, worth thirty (30) points. The final examination will be held as scheduled.

The quality and appropriateness of class participation will be evaluated, worth twenty (20) points.

### **Summary of Grading**

Mid-term Examination:	30 points
Final Examination:	30 points
Issue papers and Class Participation:	40 points
Total Course Requirements:	100 points