



**LATEACH**  
Louisiana Together Educating ALL Children

## Your Representative needs to hear your voice!

Action Alert #11

May 22, 2016

Greetings!

Congratulations!! Your advocacy is working!



One last step in the legislative process remains to address the following issues:

- **Restraint and Seclusion**
- **Special Education Reporting**

[SB317](#) (Restraint/Seclusion Bill) seeks to:

- Clean up definitions for restraints;
- Establish reporting requirements for the Louisiana Department of Education; and,
- Establish an Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline.

[SB310](#) (Special Education Bill) would require BESE to report statistics about students with disabilities in school systems.

If these issues are important to you, contact your Louisiana State Representative BEFORE Thursday, May 26th.

## Louisiana State Representatives

Send your Representative an email to tell them how you feel about these issues.

If you know your Representative's name [click here](#) for their contact information.

Don't know your State Representative? [Click here](#) and enter your home address. The first person listed will be your State Representative.



## Additional Information

For additional information to help you understand issues to be discussed see below.

### **Restraints and Seclusion.**

Five years ago a law ([Act 328 of 2011](#)) was passed in Louisiana regulating the use of restraints and seclusion in schools and requiring the Louisiana Department of Education to maintain a database of all reported incidents of seclusion and restraint. While advocates were pleased with the Legislature passing Act 328 of 2011, there has been disappointment with the lack of attention by our state in these practices being reported. Initial reports of statewide incidents of restraint and seclusion published by LDOE for 2012 and 2013 indicated there were only 19 incidents statewide in 2012 and 17 incidents in 2013. These data were not consistent with parents' experiences. LDOE has indicated it changed how data on restraints and seclusion are being reported to improve collection efforts.

Parents have told LaTEACH that behavior is high on the list of critical issues needing statewide attention almost every year. Over the past few years LDOE has reduced the amount of support provided to schools in using effective approaches to address challenging behaviors of students.

SB317 would require incidents of restraint and seclusion to be published each year and would establish an Advisory Committee to oversee discipline and behavior practices across the state and advise LDOE and BESE on recommended actions to better support schools in meeting the needs of children who have challenging behaviors.

Click [HERE to read SB 317](#).

Watch the testimony on SB317 by [clicking here](#). Testimony starts at 1:45:30

The Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council SUPPORTS the LDOE being required to produce and publish a report on the use of restraints and seclusion and the establishment of an Advisory Council to oversee discipline and behavior in schools.



### **Reporting Special Education Statistics.**

For almost twenty years the LDOE published a report called the Special Education Data Profile. This report included information on the rates of students with disabilities and specific disabilities, the rates of inclusion, exit outcomes, performance outcomes and many other statistics. These statistics helped parents and advocates understand where our state had come from and the current status of students with disabilities. Trends and patterns were available to guide statewide plans, highlight areas of success, or identify other areas that may need additional attention and support. Armed with this information, stakeholders were better able to understand critical issues facing our state and provide informed input to BESE and LDOE. SB 310 seeks to require LDOE publish information previously available in the Special Education Data Profile.

Click [HERE to read SB310](#).

The Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council SUPPORTS the LDOE being required to produce and publish a report on special education statistics that had been previously included in the Special Education Data Profile and information on the funding changes to schools based on populations of students with disabilities.

## Did You Take Action?

Please let us know if you contacted House Education Committee members or attended a committee meeting by emailing us at [info@lateach.org](mailto:info@lateach.org).



## Any questions?

If there are any questions about the information in this alert, contact LaTEACH at:

Email: [info@lateach.org](mailto:info@lateach.org)

Phone: 1-800-450-8108

Phone: 1-800-894-6558

Website: [www.lateach.org](http://www.lateach.org)



LaTEACH is an initiative of the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council.