



LaTEACH
Louisiana Together Educating ALL Children

Join Fellow LaTEACH Members!

Put on your Purple

Senate Education Committee needs to hear your voice!
Action Alert #8

April 25, 2016

Greetings!

On Thursday, April 28th the Senate Education Committee will consider two bills that 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 members of the Senate Education Committee BEFORE Thursday, April 28th! You can also put on your purple shirt and join other LaTEACH members at the committee meeting.

WHEN: April 28, 2016 (Thursday)
10:00 a.m. (upon adjournment (end) of the full Senate).

WHERE: State Capitol: John J. Hainkel, Jr. Room
900 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9062

LaTEACH members are encouraged to attend the Senate Education Committee meeting to remind legislators who we are and that decisions should be made that consider the best interest of ALL kids.

If you don't have a purple LaTEACH shirt, contact your [LaTEACH Regional Leader](#) and we will provide one for you.



Senate Education Committee

Contact Senate Education Committee member to tell them how you feel about these issues.

All Areas & Lake Charles

Senator Blade Morrish (Chair)	morrishd@legis.la.gov	(337) 824-3979 (888) 824-3979
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New Orleans

Senator Conrad Appel	appelc@legis.la.gov	(504) 838-5550
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Baton Rouge

Senator Mack "Bodi" White	whitem@legis.la.gov	(225) 272-1324
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Lafayette

Senator Gerald Boudreaux	boudreauxg@legis.la.gov	(337) 267-7520 (844) 885-6578
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Monroe / Shreveport

Senator Michael Walsworth	walsworthm@legis.la.gov	(318) 340-6453 (866) 518-8573
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Shreveport

Senator John Milkovich (Vice-Chair)	milkovichj@legis.la.gov	(318) 676-7877
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Hammond/Northshore

Senator Beth Mizell	mizellb@legis.la.gov	(985) 839-3936
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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. The amount of statewide support for schools to have the skills to address student's challenging behavior has been reduced over the past few years.

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.

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 Senate Education Committee members or attended a committee meeting by emailing us at info@lateach.org.



Any questions?

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

Email: info@lateach.org

Phone: 1-800-450-8108

Phone: 1-800-894-6558

Website: www.lateach.org



LaTEACH is an initiative of the [Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council](#).

Coming October 2016

LaCAN & LaTEACH unite into one powerful advocacy network!

