



**LaTEACH**  
Louisiana Together Educating ALL Children

Join Fellow LaTEACH Members!

# Put on your Purple

BESE needs to hear your voice!

January 7, 2015

Greetings!

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) meets next week to consider multiple issues that impact students with disabilities. You are encouraged to review the information below and attend the meeting and/or contact your BESE member on the issue(s) that are most important to you and your child.



Issue Considered	Why it matters?
LAA-1 Eligibility Expansion	Big change for lots of students with disabilities.
Alternative School and Program Report	60 percent increase of students enrolled in alternative schools (2,149 in 2013; 3,428 in 2014).
Jump Start Graduation Pathways	This proposal does not contain any information or pathway needed by most students with disabilities. The La. Department of Education (LDOE) has a workgroup to make provisions for students with disabilities.
Certification for Early Childhood Care and Education professionals	Higher standards means better providers; lack of funding to pay professionals.
ACT and Advanced Placement Report	Continues to reward selective admission schools
Funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MFP</li> <li>• High Cost Distributions</li> <li>• Training for Special Education</li> <li>• Scholarship schools to accommodate more students</li> </ul>	Money matters! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MFP is still not equitable across traditional and charter schools</li> <li>• Funding for training related to Special Education reduced by half.</li> </ul>
Legislative Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equitable funding</li> <li>• Actual cost to educate students</li> <li>• Disciplinary removals</li> <li>• Students attending charter schools</li> </ul>	Information requested by legislators may drive future regulations and policies.

If any of these issues are important to you, put on your purple shirt and join fellow LaTEACH members at BESE! BESE members need to hear from you!

WHEN: Tuesday, January 13th and 14th, 2015 beginning at 9:00 am

WHERE: **Claiborne Building**  
**The Louisiana Purchase Room (1-100)**  
**1201 N. Third Street**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70802**

LaTEACH members are encouraged to attend BESE meetings to remind BESE members 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 at the BESE meeting.

## BESE Committee Meetings

### Tuesday, January 13th, 2015

**9:00 am** Academic Goals and Instructional Improvement Committee  
**10:30 am** Administration and Finance Committee  
**12:30 pm** Educator Effectiveness Committee  
**1:30 pm** School Innovation and Turnaround Committee

### Wednesday, January 14th, 2015

**9:00 am** Full Board

## BESE Members

Contact your BESE member to tell them how you feel about these issues.

Click [HERE](#) for the list of BESE Members by district.

## BESE Committee Meetings Agenda Items of Interest to Students with Disabilities January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015

### 9:00 a.m. Academic Goals and Instructional Improvement

- 2.2 [Emergency provision to amend Bulletin 1530, Louisiana's IEP Handbook](#)  
LAA-1 eligibility criteria expansion effective December 11, 2014 (120 day emergency rule).
- 3.4 Alternative School/Program Report  
[http://www.boarddocs.com/la/bese/Board.nsf/files/9SBS9H7197A5/\\$file/AGII\\_3-4\\_2013-14%20Alternative%20Education%20School%20and%20Program%20Report\\_Jan2015.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/la/bese/Board.nsf/files/9SBS9H7197A5/$file/AGII_3-4_2013-14%20Alternative%20Education%20School%20and%20Program%20Report_Jan2015.pdf)
- 4.2 Jump Start Graduation Pathways  
[http://www.boarddocs.com/la/bese/Board.nsf/files/9SBSBE71DDF8/\\$file/AGII\\_4-2\\_Jan%202015%20Graduation%20Pathways.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/la/bese/Board.nsf/files/9SBSBE71DDF8/$file/AGII_4-2_Jan%202015%20Graduation%20Pathways.pdf)

5.1 Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council  
[http://www.boarddocs.com/la/bese/Board.nsf/files/9SBSD3721C8A/\\$file/AGII\\_5-1\\_ECCE%20%20AC%20%2012%208%2014%20Unoffical%20Minutes%2012%2018.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/la/bese/Board.nsf/files/9SBSD3721C8A/$file/AGII_5-1_ECCE%20%20AC%20%2012%208%2014%20Unoffical%20Minutes%2012%2018.pdf)

7.1 ACT and AP Participation and Score Report (Verbal)  
Including ACT and Advanced Placement (AP) performance into school performance scores encourages schools to not serve students with disabilities. Consider that schools only get credit for students who score a three or higher on AP tests. Almost 30 percent of the number of students statewide who scored a three or higher on AP tests in 2014 were from five selective admission (magnet) schools. While the accomplishment of the students and the teachers at these five schools is admirable, the imbalance in which schools get points is further evidence that our school accountability system rewards schools based on which students they serve.

### 10:30 a.m. Admin and Finance

4.2 High cost allocation distributions  
[http://www.boarddocs.com/la/bese/Board.nsf/files/9SDKBV50ECF0/\\$file/AF\\_4.2\\_January\\_2015\\_Allocations.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/la/bese/Board.nsf/files/9SDKBV50ECF0/$file/AF_4.2_January_2015_Allocations.pdf)

4.3 [http://www.boarddocs.com/la/bese/Board.nsf/files/9S9MM35BD923/\\$file/AF\\_4.3\\_LDE\\_Over\\_50K\\_Contracts.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/la/bese/Board.nsf/files/9S9MM35BD923/$file/AF_4.3_LDE_Over_50K_Contracts.pdf)

#### Special Education Training

- \$1.06 million; IDEA funds; [State Personnel Development Grant \(SPDG\): LSU](#); Contract was reduced by half from 2013
- \$251,127; IDEA funds; IEP training; LSU-Human Development Center, new project

Scholarship schools' capacity to accommodate more students (will this increase access for students with disabilities?):

\$163,525, State General Fund (SGF); Archdiocese of N.O.

\$75,058, SGF; Diocese of B.R.

\$110,988, SGF; Diocese of Shreveport

Before and after school enrichment

\$1.13 million, Fed-IV; Akili/Crescent City Schools

\$1.44 million, Fed-IV; Urban Support Agency, Inc.

6.1 2014 La. Legislative resolution reports

HCR61 Equitable funding for early childhood care and education

HCR187 Free transportation to charter school students

HR220 MFP - determine actual cost and funding mechanisms

HR224 Study number of students attending charter schools based on School Performance Score of school zone

SCR134 Discipline removals and USDOE Supportive School Discipline Initiative

SR194 Lafayette Type 2 Charter regarding taxation measures

SR 204 MFP Task Force actual cost

8.1 MFP Task Force

[http://www.boarddocs.com/la/bese/Board.nsf/files/9SAMQR5C6343/\\$file/AF\\_8.1\\_MFP\\_OfficialMinutes\\_1214.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/la/bese/Board.nsf/files/9SAMQR5C6343/$file/AF_8.1_MFP_OfficialMinutes_1214.pdf)

### 12:30 Educator Effectiveness

3.1 Early Childhood Education Workforce Certification

[http://www.boarddocs.com/la/bese/Board.nsf/files/9S9LFV56670E/\\$file/EE\\_3.1\\_B746\\_Final.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/la/bese/Board.nsf/files/9S9LFV56670E/$file/EE_3.1_B746_Final.pdf)

## 1:30 p.m. School Innovation and Turnaround

### 2.1 Charter School Report

[http://www.boarddocs.com/la/bese/Board.nsf/files/9SBSJN72EE8B/\\$file/SIT\\_2-1\\_2014%20Charter%20Annual%20Report%20\(12%2023%2014\)\(1\).pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/la/bese/Board.nsf/files/9SBSJN72EE8B/$file/SIT_2-1_2014%20Charter%20Annual%20Report%20(12%2023%2014)(1).pdf)

A concern in the increased pace of Type II and V charter schools is created due to rules that continue to inflate scores of schools not serving a fair share of students with disabilities and inequitable funding formula between charter and traditional school systems. Louisiana's rules reward charter schools with higher school scores and more funding if they do not enroll a fair share of students with disabilities.

### 2.4 Continuation of pilot for charter schools to enroll students from feeder charter schools.

3.1 Type 5 charter school transfer to Orleans Parish School Board includes contingency on a prohibition of admission requirements thereby increasing access to students with disabilities.

## Did You Take Action?

Please let us know if you contacted your BESE Member or attended a BESE 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](#).