



LATEACH
Louisiana Together Educating ALL Children

Put on your Purple shirt! Join fellow LaTEACH members at BESE October 15th-16th

BESE will decide many critical issues. [Click here](#) to view BESE meeting agendas. Information about a few major issues related to students with disabilities are shared below.

If you are unable to attend the meetings, please contact your BESE member and let them know how you feel regarding these issues. [Click here](#) to see the list of BESE Members.

BESE Meeting Information

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

8:30 a.m. Administration and Finance Committee

Do high school students with disabilities who are not pursuing a diploma have to take End-of-Course tests (EOCs) and the American College Test (ACT)? The federal government has proposed ending the use of alternate assessments based on modified academic achievement standards, like LAA2, after this school year. A state law (Act 151) was passed that exempts high school students with disabilities who are not pursuing a diploma from taking EOCs or the ACT. A letter from the Department of Education clarified that this state law applies to students participating in LAA1. Guidance from the Department of Education on whether Act 151 also applies to students on LAA2 is expected to be released within the next week. IEP teams should continue to choose assessments that are appropriate for each individual student.

10:00 a.m. School Innovation and Turnaround Committee

Charter Schools and School Performance Scores will be discussed.

1:00 p.m. Educator Effectiveness Committee

COMPASS and teacher issues will be discussed.

2:30 p.m. Academic Goals and Instructional Improvement Committee

A list of alternative schools for approval this year (2013-14) and a report from last year will be considered. The report for 2012-13 only includes information from 21 alternative schools, even though 34 alternative schools were approved last year. Alternative schools tend to have extremely high rates of students with disabilities and very low performance scores. The latest LaDDC News article (linked below) raised questions about how the accountability system may encourage the use alternative schools as the "Segregation Solution."

Students may be required to participate in at least 7,515 minutes of instruction to earn a Carnegie unit. This policy change would mean that a student with medical issues that misses more than 450 minutes or 7.5 hours of instruction in a single subject would not earn that credit. Should a

medical condition prevent someone from earning the credit they need to graduate?

Louisiana's transition to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and new (PARCC) assessments will also be discussed. Many parents of students with disabilities have sensed that this latest shift to higher standards makes it more difficult for teachers trying to balance teaching all students standardized academic expectations at the same pace with meeting the individualized goals of their children. One mother wrote a beautiful letter about this issue to ["Is Anybody Listening?"](#). Advocates may also want to read the LaDDC News article sharing the root causes of these conflicts ([Educational Accountability and Reforms: Impact of One-Size-Fits-All Outcomes on Students with Disabilities](#)).

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

The full BESE meets and votes on all Committee agenda items.

Share How These Issues Impact Your Child

You are LaTEACH.

Please let us know if you contacted your BESE member and how these issues impact your child.

Together we can make a difference!

