

LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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JOHN M. SCHRODER, SR.
State Representative ~ District 77

*Chairman of Homeland Security
*Appropriations
*Joint Legislative Committee
on the Budget
*House & Governmental Affairs
*Military & Veterans Affairs
*House Executive Committee
*Task Force on Legal
Representation in Child
Protection Cases

September 4, 2014

Mr. John White
Superintendent, Louisiana Department of Education
1201 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear Superintendent White,

During the first meeting of the Act 833 Leadership Steering Committee yesterday afternoon, great concern was expressed by nearly every participant related to issues caused by the lack of definitive guidance from the Department of Education. Some of the information in the two guidance documents provided by the Department on August 8th and August 18th is contradictory to Act 833 and the related rules proposed by BESE. As a result, the leaders of most local school systems have put off implementing and complying with the law pending further guidance from the Department. I hope you agree that this is completely unacceptable.

Jamie Wong informed the committee that the expected timeline for more finalized guidance from the Department will be sometime in November. I was extremely alarmed to hear this, and judging by the reaction to this news from the majority of the participants, so were they. November is simply too late. Local superintendents, principals, teachers, parents, and especially the children cannot wait any longer.

I request that you immediately provide our local school systems with clear, written guidance that is concise, informative, and free from contradictions and confusing language. This is crucial in ensuring that there is consistency among the school systems in complying with the law.

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As I have publicly stated for the past several months, and in countless conversations with you, Act 833 is the most important legislation I have had the privilege of authoring in my time as a state legislator. It is imperative that we work cooperatively together to move forward on the implementation of this law in an expeditious manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "JS", written over a large, stylized loop.

John M. Schroder, Sr.
District 77

c: BESE Members
La. House Education Committee Members
La. Senate Education Committee Members
Congressman Steve Scalise
Senator Mary Landrieu
ACT 833 Leadership Steering Committee Members