



LATEACH
Louisiana Together Educating ALL Children

Join Fellow LaTEACH Members!

BESE needs to hear your voice!

Action Alert #14

August 3, 2016

Greetings!

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) meets next week.

WHEN: August 9-10, 2016
WHERE: Claiborne Building
The Louisiana Purchase Room (1-100)
1201 N. Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802



BESE members need to hear from you before they consider the following issues most relevant to students with disabilities:

9:30 a.m. Academic Goals and Instructional Improvement Committee

Item 4.1 Alternative Schools and Alternative Programs

Do you think Louisiana should do something different than sending so many students to alternative settings?

[A report on alternative schools and programs](#) reveals enrollment numbers of students in these alternative settings.

	Alt. Schools Enrollment	Alt. Programs Enrollment
Feb. 1, 2016	2,916	1,669

Some alternative schools have very high rates of students with disabilities. In 2014-2015. Data from the school report cards reveal: Seven alternative schools had a third of their students, or more, identified as having a disability (or three times the state average); and, one alternative school had 84% of its students identified with disabilities.

RULE CHANGES

Item 6.2 [Child Care Assistance Program Eligibility \(Bulletin 139\)](#): proposed rule will reduce work/training requirement for parents of students with special needs to 15 hours per week to be eligible to receive child care assistance. Parents of children who do not have special needs are required to work 20 hours a week to be eligible. There are other exceptions to this work requirement. *Advocates have been advocating for these considerations to promote inclusion of more young children with significant disabilities in child care programs.*

Item 6.4 [Restraint and Seclusion proposed rule \(Bulletin 1706\) changes](#) will align with changes in law (Act 522) passed earlier this year. In accordance with this law [LDOE provided guidance on restraint and seclusion](#) to local schools systems. Parents want accurate information on how often schools use restraint and seclusion on students with disabilities. Following years of reports indicating less than 20 students were restrained, the LDOE made changes to reporting last year. As a result, almost 1,200 incidents of restraint and seclusion were reported to LDOE in 2015-2016. Reports on how often schools are using these practices will inform parents and educators of how to best direct resources to support schools in using more positive, proactive, educational approaches to address challenging behavior.

Item 6.5 [Diploma \(Bulletin 741\) rule changes](#) will establish procedures for previous students with disabilities who passed required course work, but not the exit exam, necessary to graduate, to petition their local school system for a high school diploma.

12:00 p.m. Administration and Finance Committee

The initiatives below seem appropriate to address the needs of the state as expressed by stakeholders and advocates.

Item 3.1 Federal and State Grants and Contracts

- \$402,700, CLASS project to support students with disabilities in improving kindergarten readiness by improving adult/child interactions. Fund: IAT-CCDF
- \$1,553,675 CLASS to support students with disabilities in improving kindergarten readiness by improving adult/child interactions. Fund: IDEA

Item 3.2 Contracts > \$50K

- \$300,000 for training and technical assistance on augmentative and alternative communication for preschoolers with cochlear implants. Fund: IDEA-Part B.

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 Members

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

BESE Member Listing by District

1st BESE District



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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.



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!

