



LATEACH
Louisiana Together Educating ALL Children

Join Fellow LaTEACH Members!

Put on your Purple

SEAP needs to hear your voice!

January 15, 2016

Greetings!

The Special Education Advisory Board (SEAP) meets next week.

WHEN: **January 22, 2016**

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



[Click here](#) to see the agenda.

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

1. Restraint and Seclusion

Did you know in 2011 Louisiana passed a law regulating the use of restraint and seclusion in schools - but five years later it is not known how many students are restrained and secluded?

In 2011 Louisiana passed a law (Act 328 of 2011) regulating the use of restraints and seclusion. [Click here](#) to read a summary and a Q&A on the law. Although the law requires the Louisiana Department of Education to maintain a database of every incident of restraint and seclusion it does not appear much effort has been taken to collect these data. Requests for the number of incidents of restraint and seclusion have not yielded any data from the last two years. Data provided by LDOE from the [2011-2012](#) and [2012-2013](#) school years were questioned because the numbers of incidents were so low, with 19 and 17 total incidents statewide, respectively. Data from the last two years (2013-2014 and 2014-2015) have not been made available.

If your child has been restrained or secluded, were the procedures appropriate and were you informed?

Recently a number of parents have revealed their children were restrained and/or secluded. The most common concern shared was the school not telling the parent (which is required by law).

Do you think the Louisiana Department of Education is offering school systems and parents enough training and support in Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports to expect the need for restraints and seclusion to decrease?

Between 2012 and 2015 the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) reduced the amount of IDEA funding to 'Assist Local Education Agencies in Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports and mental health services' by more than half (i.e., a reduction of 56%; reducing more than \$800,000 of funds previously used to support behavior and mental health initiatives).

2. Application for IDEA Funding

Do think the state should use funding for students with disabilities differently than it is currently spending those dollars?

The Special Education Advisory Panel will discuss the application process for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Federal Fiscal Year 2016 grant. The IDEA grant provides about \$24 million dollars to support activities related to students with disabilities. The draft of the FFY2016 grant is not available at this time, so SEAP members and other stakeholders cannot analyze the LDOE plans yet.

Below is a breakdown of the FFY2015 IDEA budget and shift in priorities since 2009.

			FFY 2015	Total difference 2010 to 2015	Total percentage increase 2010-2015
		NOTE: Category Labels are abbreviated from official descriptions			
For Administrative Activities Under Part B	a	Administration and coordination of activities	\$ 3,673,401	\$446,798	14%
For Other State Level Activities	h	Monitoring, enforcement, and complaint investigation	\$ 479,486	-\$270,514	-36%
	l	Mediation process	\$ 173,046	\$73,047	73%
	j	Support and direct services, T.A., personnel prep, prof. development and training	\$ 5,056,817	\$56,817	1%
	k	Assist LEAs in PBIS and mental health services	\$ 641,318	-\$807,006	-56%
	l	Assist LEAs in meeting personnel shortages	\$ -	\$1,306,240	-100%
	m	Support capacity building and	\$ 1,974,180	\$2,124,820	-52%

	improve delivery of services			
n	Paperwork reduction activities	\$ -	-\$660,531	-100%
o	Improve use of Assistive Technology	\$ -	-\$274,391	-100%
p	Support use of Assistive Technology	\$ 1,600,000	\$1,300,968	-45%
q	Transition to post-secondary activities	\$ 200,000	-\$770,001	-79%
r	Alternate Schools, Correctional Facilities, State Operated/Supported Schools, and Charter schools	\$ 1,500,000	\$1,300,000	650%
s	Develop Alternate Assessments	\$ 4,813,200	\$4,601,201	2170%
u	High Cost Fund	\$ 4,400,000	\$2,900,001	193%
Total Budget Amount		\$ 24,511,448	\$1,863,362	9%

3. Annual Performance Report

Do you think enough time is being devoted for stakeholders to review the massive amounts of data in the Annual Performance Report?

LDOE will share information regarding how Louisiana performed along many indicators related to special education. The current reports are not yet available for SEAP members or stakeholders to review.

[Click here](#) to see reports and data from previous year SPP and APRs. Because these reports cover so much information and so many issues it has been questioned whether SEAP has adequate time to review and make meaningful recommendations. Up until about five years ago an entire committee would take a few days to review the data in the APR and the corresponding State Performance Plan. Three years ago, in February 2013, SEAP requested for LDOE to convene a workgroup comprised of SEAP members to assist in the development of the State Performance Plan (see item 26 of the [SEAP February 2013 Minutes](#)). It does not appear this recommendation has ever been fulfilled.

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.

What To Do?

LaTEACH members are encouraged to attend SEAP meetings and share their thoughts and concerns with SEAP members. Send Patsy White co-chair of SEAP, your thoughts and comments to patsywhite@bellsouth.net.

Did You Take Action?

Please let us know if you contacted your policymaker(s) or attended a policy 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](#).