



LATEACH
Louisiana Together Educating ALL Children

Join Fellow LaTEACH Members!

Put on your Purple

The Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) Task Force needs to hear your voice!

August 28, 2013

Put on your purple and meet us at the MFP Task Force meeting at 10:00 a.m. on September 4th at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge!

[Click here](#) for the MFP Task Force Agenda.

The MFP Task Force will consider changing the MFP. The MFP, or Minimum Foundation Program, is the main funding formula for education of students in elementary and secondary schools. Discussions with some parents led to the question of "Why change the MFP?" This alert contains information to assist parents in evaluating whether they believe the current MFP should be changed and various models to consider.

Send Ms. Rana Ottallah, MFP Task Force member representing parents of students with disabilities, your comments and suggestions at: ranaottallah@gmail.com

It is recommended that any change to the MFP be:

1. Based on a valid reason or concern, and,
2. Evidence-based (i.e., supported by research and/or practices) that would likely produce desired outcome(s).

Education funding expert, Thomas Parrish, recommends the following criteria for evaluating state special education funding formulas ([Click here](#) to see his entire presentation):

- Understandable
- Equitable
- Adequate
- Predictable
- Flexible
- Identification neutral
- Reasonable reporting burden
- Fiscal accountability
- Cost-based
- Cost control
- Placement neutral
- Outcome accountability
- Connection to regular education funding
- Political acceptability

[Click here](#) to read the LaDDC staff review of the MFP according to these criteria and evidence of alternative funding models with meeting desired outcomes.

[Click here](#) to read a policy brief providing a description of the MFP and comparison of other funding models used across the states. *Louisiana's Minimum Foundation Program Formula: Analyzing the Results* by the Cohen Institute of Tulane University.

[Click here](#) to read the in depth policy analysis, *Financing Special Education: State Funding Formulas*, by Dr. Eileen Ahearn in 2010. Dr. Ahearn provides a comprehensive comparison of state funding formulas from all fifty states.

What To Do

ALL LaTEACH members are encouraged to attend the Louisiana MFP Task Force meetings. If you don't have a purple LaTEACH shirt, contact your [LaTEACH Regional Leader](#) and we will provide one for you.

If you cannot attend the MFP Task Force Meetings:

Send Ms. Ottallah, MFP Task Force member representing parents of student with disabilities, your comments and suggestions at: ranaottallah@gmail.com

Click [HERE](#) for the list of other MFP Task Force Members

Meeting Schedule

The MFP Task Force is scheduled to meet five times:

When:

September 4

10:00 a.m. - 4: 30 p.m. (Public testimony 11:15 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.)

September 23

October 21

November 21

December 13

[Click here](#) for the schedule of general topics covered on each of these dates.

Where:

Claiborne Building

Thomas Jefferson Room

1201 North 3rd St.

Baton Rouge, La