



**LATEACH**  
Louisiana Together Educating ALL Children

Join Fellow LaTEACH Members!

## SEAP meeting date changed to August 4th

July 24, 2014

Greetings!

The Special Education Advisory Panel meeting previously scheduled for this coming Monday (July 28) has been rescheduled to the following Monday (August 4). At this meeting SEAP will make recommendations for the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) regarding policy changes related to alternative pathways for some students with disabilities to be promoted or graduate as indicated by [HB1015/Act 833](#).

Act 833 creates a monumental shift in policy for students with disabilities. For this (2014-2015) school year, school systems will be focusing on students with disabilities in high school that could be considered for this alternative pathway.

**WHAT: Special Education Advisory Panel ([Agenda](#))**

**WHEN: 9:00 a.m., August 4, 2014**

**WHERE: Claiborne Building, North Dakota Room (1-155)  
1201 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA**

**WHAT: Board of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Committee Meetings (Agendas not yet available)**

**WHEN: 9:00 a.m., August 12, 2014**

**WHERE: Claiborne Building, The Louisiana Purchase Room  
1201 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA**

**WHAT: Board of Elementary and Secondary Education  
(Agenda not yet available)**

**WHEN: 9:00 a.m., August 13, 2014**

**WHERE: Claiborne Building, The Louisiana Purchase Room  
1201 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA**

LaTEACH members are encouraged to attend meetings to hear discussion among Committee members and share recommendations to these Committees.

If you don't have a purple LaTEACH shirt, contact your [LaTEACH Regional Leader](#) or [info@lateach.org](mailto:info@lateach.org) and we will provide one for you at the meeting.

## BESE Members

Contact your BESE member to tell them how you feel about these issues. Click [HERE](#) for the list of BESE Members by district or use the list below.

<b>Mr. Chas Roemer</b> <i>President</i>	<a href="mailto:Chas.Roemer@la.gov">Chas.Roemer@la.gov</a>	225.342.5840
<b>Dr. Lottie Beebe</b>	<a href="mailto:Lottie.Beebe@la.gov">Lottie.Beebe@la.gov</a>	337.412.2564
<b>Ms. Holly Boffy</b> <i>Secretary-Treasurer</i>	<a href="mailto:Holly.Boffy@la.gov">Holly.Boffy@la.gov</a>	337.354.5572
<b>Ms. Connie E. Bradford</b>	<a href="mailto:Connie.Bradford@la.gov">Connie.Bradford@la.gov</a>	225.342.5840
<b>Mr. James D. Garvey, Jr.</b> <i>Vice President</i>	<a href="mailto:James.Garvey@la.gov">James.Garvey@la.gov</a>	504.836.6500
<b>Mr. Jay Guillot</b>	<a href="mailto:Jay.Guillot@la.gov">Jay.Guillot@la.gov</a>	318.255.6825
<b>Ms. Carolyn Hill</b>	<a href="mailto:Carolyn.Hill2@la.gov">Carolyn.Hill2@la.gov</a>	225.342.5840
<b>Ms. Kira Orange Jones</b>	<a href="mailto:Kira.OrangeJones@la.gov">Kira.OrangeJones@la.gov</a>	225.342.5840
<b>Mr. Walter Lee</b>	<a href="mailto:Walter.Lee@la.gov">Walter.Lee@la.gov</a>	318.510.1111
<b>Dr. Judith Miranti</b>	<a href="mailto:Judith.Miranti@la.gov">Judith.Miranti@la.gov</a>	225.342.5840
<b>Ms. Jane Smith</b>	<a href="mailto:Jane.Smith.BESE@la.gov">Jane.Smith.BESE@la.gov</a>	225.362.3058

Not sure which BESE member represents you? Use the Louisiana [map with BESE Districts](#) linked here to find out.

## Additional Information about Act 833

[Act 833](#) of 2014 provides a pathway to promotion and graduation for certain students with disabilities. BESE will need to modify many rules related to this change in the law. Act 833 addresses a lot of issues with how two federal education laws send different messages about decisions related to students with disabilities (i.e., The Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act).

School systems across Louisiana are preparing for changes that will go into effect this (2014-2015) school year. Parents of students with disabilities are asked to work with their school system to enable school systems to ensure the most students as possible are able to benefit from changes to their IEPs in the first 30 days of school. There are not any state requirements for promotion in the 2014-2015 school year (i.e., no high stakes test performance requirements for 4th and 8th grades). Therefore, the focus of Act 833, alternative pathways, will be on students who need consideration to earn credits toward graduation. Not all students with disabilities in high school will need an alternative pathway. Parents and educators have expressed a desire to maintain high expectations of all students, continue providing full access to the general education curriculum and full participation in standardized assessments for students determined appropriate to have an

alternative pathway to graduate.

The effort to get these changes adopted in policy have been a collaborative effort between parents of students with disabilities, educators, and school system administrators. These changes provide an opportunity to improve the IEP process, to build capacity of educators and parents in determining appropriate goals and to increase attention to what is put into an IEP - by parents, educators, administrators, and perhaps most importantly, students! It will take time for the systems, and people within those systems, to adjust to these changes. LaTEACH encourages parents and educators to continue working together in implementing this monumental shift in how students with disabilities progress through and exit school.

For more information about Act 833 and the status of activities related to the implementation of these changes go to:

[www.laddc.org/promotion-diploma-pathways](http://www.laddc.org/promotion-diploma-pathways)

For an introductory training powerpoint on Act 833 click here: [Alternative Pathways for Grade Promotion and Graduation](#)

## Did You Take Action?

Please let us know if you plan to attend any of these meetings or have contacted any of the members on these committees by emailing us at [info@lateach.org](mailto:info@lateach.org).



## Any questions?

If there are any questions about the information in this alert, contact LaTEACH at:

Email: [info@lateach.org](mailto:info@lateach.org)  
Phone: 1-800-450-8108  
Phone: 1-800-894-6558  
Website: [www.lateach.org](http://www.lateach.org)



LaTEACH is an initiative of the [Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council](#).