



Action Alert #4 Advocate for Education Issues

December 7, 2017

There will be three important education meetings next week:

Monday, December 11, 2017

- The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) Committee meetings

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

- The Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline
- Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) Task Force

If any of the issues below matter to you, then take action by contacting a member of one of the committees (contact links are provided below) and putting on your yellow shirt and joining other LaCAN members at the meetings!

- Should charter schools that do not serve a fair share of students with disabilities and students living in poverty (as required by Louisiana law) be given ten year extensions to continue operating?
- Should BESE grant alternative evaluation methods for schools serving special populations of students, creating an environment for separate educational systems? Or should we fix the accountability system for ALL schools to give educators credit for serving ALL students?
- Is the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) doing its part in improving how schools handle behavior and discipline? Are you okay with students with disabilities being sent to alternative schools at more than 2.5 times the rate as students without disabilities?
- How should the billions of dollars in funds be distributed to schools?

BESE Committee Meetings

Monday, December 11, 2017

Claiborne Building, 1201 N. Third St., Baton Rouge

Room 1-100, The Louisiana Purchase Room

[Click here to contact your BESE Member!](#)

11:00 a.m. Administration and Finance

Item 4.1 Re: 70% of MFP funds required to be spent on Instruction.

The LDOE is not following state law related to the requirement for 70% of MFP funds spent on instruction by adding an exemption from this requirement for any school system above the state average District Performance Score. [Read the report on the 70% requirement for FY2015-2016](#)

1:00 School Innovation and Turnaround Committee

Item 2.3 [Consideration of an alternative framework for evaluating a charter school with specific mission to serve special populations](#). Federal law prohibits using alternative evaluation methods for schools serving special populations. Using different criteria to evaluate schools serving special populations illustrates flaws in the school accountability system with recognizing progress of all students. Creating an alternative evaluation framework is likely to lead to a system of different school systems, and history has demonstrated that separate schools systems do not give students equal access to instruction and outcomes. A recent [LDOE report on Alternative Education Settings](#) revealed, *"Appropriate and effective interventions and supports are not being provided to remediate and address students' underlying behavioral/social/emotional issues."* And, *"Students at alternative education sites are not receiving academic services, including quality instruction or counseling, at a level that is equivalent to the home school."*

Item 2.4 Should a charter school not serving its fair share of students living in poverty and with disabilities be awarded a ten year extension on its charter school? State law ([R.S. 17:3991.B](#)) requires charter schools to enroll students with disabilities and those who are on Free and Reduced Lunch (economically disadvantaged) at rates of at least 85 percent of the rates found in local traditional public schools. The only charter school being recommended for a ten year extension due to having an "A" school performance score rating did not fulfill the legal requirement for serving students with disabilities or students on free and reduced lunch. According to a [LDOE 2015-2016 report](#) and the [2016-2017 Charter School Annual Review](#), Acadiana Renaissance Charter Academy did not serve its fair share of students with disabilities or students living in an economically disadvantaged home. Schools serving less than their fair share of students with disabilities and students from economically disadvantaged homes tend to have higher school performance scores since students from these two groups tend to score lower on standardized tests.

The Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline (ACSBD)

9:30 a.m., Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Claiborne Building, 1201 N. Third St., Baton Rouge

Email Shawn Fleming: shawn.fleming@la.gov

The ACSBD is charged with providing advice and guidance to BESE and LDOE regarding best practices in providing support to public school governing authorities in the adoption and implementation of each school's master plan for student behavior and discipline. Parents on the ACSBD have raised concerns that LDOE is convening other workgroups related to behavior without including parents of children with disabilities, or any parent representatives at all. This concern is coupled with the lack of any state-wide plan for addressing behavior by LDOE. The Council and LaCAN are seeking to have LDOE prioritize behavior and have a state-wide plan to support and oversee implementation of effective behavioral practices. Read [LaCAN's Fact Sheet on LDOE Behavior Support](#)

[Plan.](#)

The Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) Task Force
1:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 12, 2017
Claiborne Building, 1201 N. Third St., Baton Rouge
Room 1-136 A-B (Thomas Jefferson Room)
Email Ashley McReynolds: amcreynolds@lacanadvocates.org

The Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) Task Force provides advice to the La. Department of Education on the funding formula driving most of the funds going to schools. An overview of historical data on the MFP formula will be provided and then the Task Force will consider LDOE's proposed MFP formula for FY2018-2019.

Contact Us

LaCAN is an initiative of the LA Developmental Disabilities Council. If there are any questions about the information in this email, contact the Council by replying to this email, or calling the toll free number listed below:

phone: 1-800-450-8108

email: info@laddc.org

website: www.lacanadvocates.org

facebook: www.facebook.com/lacanadvocates

twitter: www.twitter.com/LaDDCouncil



Louisiana Developmental
Disabilities Council

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