



# LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

August 13, 2018

April Dunn  
Chairperson  
Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council  
626 Main St.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70801

Ms. Dunn,

I am in receipt of your letter dated August 2, 2018. In this letter you requested the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) revise Bulletin 1566: *Pupil Progression Policies and Procedures* and that the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) provide guidance and support to school systems on the implementation of Act 833 of 2014. These requests are made in response to questions about the implementation of Act 833 of 2014 which occurred during a presentation hosted by the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs on July 26, 2018.

Bulletin 1566 and Pupil Progression Plans exist to operationalize provisions of R.S. 17:24.4, which applies broadly to public school students and the use of state assessment results to inform placement decisions. Most provisions of Bulletin 1566 apply to all students however, the bulletin contains the following language with regard to students with disabilities:

## §503. Regular Placement

### A. Promotion—Grades K-12

1. Promotion from one grade to another for regular students and students with disabilities shall be based on the following statewide evaluative criteria.

- a. Each plan shall include the school attendance requirements.
- b. Each plan shall include the course requirements for promotion by grade levels.
- c. Each plan shall include promotion requirements for students eligible to take LEAP alternate assessment, level 1 (LAA 1) or LEAP connect.
- d. Each plan shall include promotion requirements for students with disabilities aligned to policies included in Bulletin 1530—Louisiana's IEP Handbook for Students with Exceptionalities.

## §505. Other Placement Requirements

### A. Progression—Students Participating in LEAP Alternate Assessment (LAA1) or LEAP Connect

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1. Students with disabilities who participate in the LEAP alternate assessment or LEAP Connect shall have promotion decisions determined by the IEP team.

Bulletin 1530, to which Bulletin 1566 refers in §503, contains the specific provisions relative to placement decisions for students with disabilities, pursuant to Act 833 of 2014. Therefore, we do not believe any further revisions are needed. State laws enacted through Act 833 of 2014 as well as BESE regulations adopted in accordance with this Act remain in effect and are in no way replaced by the recent revisions made to Bulletin 1566 and Pupil Progression Plan templates.

As noted in your letter, the LDOE has provided extensive guidance on Act 833 of 2014 over the past years. This includes guidance documents on the LDOE website, webinars, public presentations, and more. None of the guidance released in the past year about the revisions to Bulletin 1566 replace, override, or conflict with the Act 833 of 2014 guidance nor the Act 833 of 2014 provisions described in Bulletin 1530.

If members of the LADDC have further questions regarding this matter, please contact me at [jamie.wong@la.gov](mailto:jamie.wong@la.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jamie Wong".

Jamie Wong

State Special Education Director

**Louisiana Believes**