BESE will meet next Tuesday, July 14th, at 1:30 p.m. to establish minimum standards for schools to follow in reopening during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Act 9 (HB59) of the 2020 First Extraordinary Session requires the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to adopt emergency rules informed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention guidelines to provide minimum standards, policies, medical exceptions, and regulations to govern the reopening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year. These rules must ensure students, faculty, staff, and others on school property are protected to the extent possible and practical from COVID-19.

Some children and adults, including some people with developmental disabilities, are at increased risk of illness due to COVID-19. Click here to read research on the impact of COVID-19 on people with developmental disabilities.

It is not clear what medical exceptions will be considered by BESE. The only example in the CDC guidance to reduce risk for students at higher risk of severe illness is offering virtual learning opportunities. Will virtual learning opportunities work for your child or situation?

Click here to see papers by the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates regarding considerations for students with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

How to Take Action

1. Email Superintendent Dr. Cade Brumley at Cade.Brumley@la.gov by Monday, July 13th!
2. Email or call your district BESE member and members at-large by Monday, July 13th!
   - Don’t know who your BESE member is? Click here to view the BESE district map.

Share your personal story and express your thoughts on rules for reopening schools during the COVID-19 pandemic.

BESE Member Listing By District

1st BESE District  Mr. James D. Garvey, Jr.  James.Garvey@la.gov
2nd BESE District  Ms. Kira Orange Jones  Kira.OrangeJones@la.gov
3rd BESE District  Ms. Sandy Holloway  Sandy.Holloway@la.gov
4th BESE District  Mr. Tony Davis  Tony.Davis@la.gov
5th BESE District  Ms. Ashley Ellis  Ashley.Ellis@la.gov
6th BESE District  Mr. Ronnie Morris  Ronnie.Morris@la.gov
7th BESE District  Dr. Holly Boffy  Holly.Boffy@la.gov
8th BESE District  Mr. Preston Castille  Preston.Castille@la.gov
Members At-Large  Dr. Belinda Davis  Belinda.Davis@la.gov
                  Mr. Thomas Roque  Thomas.Roque@la.gov
                  Ms. Doris Voitier  Doris.Voitier@la.gov

You Can Watch BESE Meetings Online
You can stream the BESE meeting live here.

Confirm Your Action
- Notify your LaCAN Leader to confirm your action.
- Why confirm your action? This helps the Council know how effective we are reaching you with important information and engaging members across our state in advocacy for systems change.

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/LaDDCouncil
twitter: www.twitter.com/LaDDCouncil

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