

Address Oversight and Accountability Regarding Cameras in Special Education Classrooms

KNOW THE FACTS

- **Student reporting of incidents in self-contained special education classrooms is limited due to students who are non-verbal and/or have limited communication skills.**
- **Students with disabilities receive out-of-school suspensions thirty percent more often than students without disabilities.**
- **Some Louisiana schools already use cameras to monitor main areas. The infrastructure is already in place to accommodate additional cameras.**
- **Video and audio surveillance protects students and educators and promotes improved training to address challenging student behavior.**

What Can Legislators Do?

Hold school districts accountable by requiring a deadline for policy development and allow for the LA Department of Education to oversee implementation.

Why Do This?

Act 456 of 2021 requires governing authorities of public and charter schools to adopt policies relative to the installation and operation of cameras in special education classrooms upon request. This issue received unanimous support from both the state House and Senate.

Unfortunately, many districts have failed to develop and implement any such policy despite the law requiring them to do so. Oversight and accountability is needed to ensure appropriate and timely implementation of the law:

- A date for development and implementation of policy must be established.
- LA Department of Education should be granted the authority to:
 - ♦ Provide guidance and support regarding policy development
 - ♦ Oversee implementation of policy
 - ♦ Collect necessary data from all local education authorities to ensure transparency in implementation