



Action Alert #11

House Education to Discuss Cameras in Self-Contained Classrooms

May 6, 2022



Cameras in self-contained special education classrooms has made its way through the Senate and now heads to House Education.

Wednesday, May 11th House Education meets at 9 AM to discuss Senator Foil's bill ([SB45](#)) which would require all public school governing authorities to adopt policies relative to cameras in self-contained special education classrooms by December 31, 2022. ([Agendas](#))

[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. 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.

Members of the Senate Education Committee and the full Senate unanimously supported this issue and amended SB45 to include:

- Requiring policies be submitted to the Louisiana Department of Education by January 15, 2023 and within 10 days of any changes to a district's policy
- Ensuring policies developed include procedures regarding how a parent or legal guardian may request cameras be installed, and
- Clarifying language that policy development is not contingent upon funding.

Cameras play an important role in ensuring the safety of students with disabilities and educators. Students with disabilities, particularly students who are non-verbal, are at greater risk of abuse and do not have the communication skills to self-report this abuse. Video and audio surveillance not only increases student safety but also protects educators from false accusations and promotes improved training to address students' challenging behaviors.

If [addressing oversight and accountability regarding cameras in self-contained special education classrooms](#) is important to you or someone you know, take action **TODAY!**

How to Take Action

Share your personal story and explain how the issue above has affected you, your family or someone you know.

1. **Email or call** the Chair *and* members of the House Education Committee *before* the committee meets on Wednesday, May 11th! Find the contact information for the Chair and your member of the House Education Committee at the end of this alert.
2. **Email** h-educ@legis.la.gov your public comments about cameras in classrooms:
 - Only statements emailed to the address above and *received before 12 PM Tuesday, May 10th*, will be distributed to all committee members prior to the meeting.
 - With your comments, please ensure to include your name, address, phone number, email address, and bill number (SB45).
 - Don't forget to thank the Chair and committee members for considering the needs of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families
3. **Attend Yellow Shirt Day!**
 - WHEN: Wednesday, May 11th, at 9 AM
 - WHERE: Louisiana State Capitol - Room 1

It is important for LaCAN to fill the room with yellow shirts to show the importance of this issue! Don't forget to arrive early to ensure you get a seat in the committee room. If you plan to attend, want to share your testimony before committee, need a yellow shirt and/or want to find out about carpooling options, contact your [LaCAN Leader](#).

Get Involved Virtually!

If you can't make it to Yellow Shirt Day, that's okay! There are other ways to get involved!

- Watch committee meetings live from the [legislature's website](#). When the meeting is in progress, click the camera icon to access the broadcast.
- Host committee watch parties on social media and/or post a video sharing your personal story
 - Tag your friends, representatives, senators, and policymakers
 - Use hashtags #LaDDC, #lalege, #LaCAN
- Email, tweet, message, etc. members of the committee before and during the committee meeting and share how the issues above will impact you/your loved ones

Tips & Tools for Advocacy

Looking for tips and tools to help you in your advocacy? Check out the Council's [Advocacy 101](#) page. You can also find tips for:

- [Writing/emailing your legislators](#)
- [Calling your legislators](#)
- [Writing your story](#)

Confirm Your Action

- Email your [LaCAN Leader](#) after you take 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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Louisiana Developmental
Disabilities Council

Find your member of the House Education Committee!

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Chairman Only (see top of list)		
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Committee Members are sorted by region. Find your region!

Louisiana Regions

