



Action Alert #15 House to Debate Cameras in Self-Contained Special Education Classrooms

May 25, 2022



Cameras in self-contained special education classrooms has made its way through the Senate and House Education. Now it heads to the House for debate!

Thursday, May 26th

House is scheduled to meet at 1 PM 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. ([Agenda](#))

[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.

Senators and members of the House Education Committee have 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.

In other good news, the state's proposed Fiscal Year 23 budget, currently awaiting the Governor's approval, contains funding for cameras in self-contained special education classrooms!

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** your State Representative before they meet on Thursday, May 26th, at 1 PM!
 - Click [here](#) for State Representative's full contact information.
 - Don't know your State Representative? Click [here](#) and enter your home address. The first person listed will be your State Representative.
 - With your comments, please ensure to include your name, address, phone number, email address, bill number (SB45) and a thank you to your Representative for prioritizing the safety of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD)!

If you need more information or would like help contacting your State Representative, reach out to your [LaCAN Leader](#) today!

Get Involved Virtually!

- 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

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