



Action Alert #2

SEAP to Discuss LDOE Complaint Process Audit

November 21, 2023

The Louisiana Special Education Advisory Council (SEAP) meets Wednesday, November 29th at 9:30 AM to discuss the [Legislative Auditor's report](#) concerning the Louisiana Department of Education's (LDOE) complaint process regarding Students with Disabilities receiving Special Education Services.

A few questions to consider:

- Have you filed a formal complaint regarding your child's special education services with LDOE and the complaint was never addressed?
- Do you feel LDOE's complaint process should be more accessible, user-friendly and transparent?
- Would you like to see LDOE partner with stakeholders to create a better complaint process?

If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, put on your yellow shirt and join LaCAN for a Yellow Shirt Day! More information about this issue can be found in the background information below.

How to Take Action

Attend Yellow Shirt Day and share your personal story about the complaint process before the panel!

- **WHEN:** Wednesday, November 29th at 9:30 AM
- **WHERE:** Claiborne Building – Thomas Jefferson Room 1-136
1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

The meeting agenda can be found [here](#). If you plan to attend, need help preparing your testimony, need a yellow shirt or want to find out about carpooling options, contact your [LaCAN Leader](#).

Background Information

The Legislative Auditor released the first of a series of reports related to the evaluation of the LDOE's oversight of students with disabilities in Louisiana. Federal law requires LDOE to provide general supervision of local school systems and ensure all Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirements are met. To accomplish this, LDOE must adopt written procedures for due process hearings, mediations and formal complaints. Because federal law allows for some flexibility in how states set up their dispute resolution processes, Louisiana has developed two additional processes — Individualized Education Plan (IEP) facilitations and informal complaints.

The report highlighted several areas of concern on how the LDOE:

- Handled formal complaints;
- Failed to address all complaints received via email; and

- The need for LDOE to make their complaint process more accessible, transparent and user friendly.

It was also noted LDOE does not always reach out to parents during the complaint process, but they always reached out to school systems making the process unfair.

SEAP will be discussing an implementation plan to address the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's Office recommendations found within the audit report.

Confirm Your Action

- Email or call your [LaCAN Leader](#) if you are able to attend Yellow Shirt Day.

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 your story](#)

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

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