



Action Alert #3

BESE to Discuss LDOE Dispute Resolution Process

December 5, 2023

The Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education's (BESE) Academic Goals and Instructional Improvement Committee meets next Tuesday, December 12th, and they need to hear from you!

In September, the Legislative Auditor's office released a [report](#) related to the Louisiana Department of Education's (LDOE) complaint and dispute resolution process regarding Students with Disabilities receiving Special Education Services. At the October 2023 BESE meeting, the Board, after hearing powerful testimony from parents and advocates, directed the LDOE to bring an updated report to the December 2023 Academic Goals and Instructional Improvement Committee. ([Agenda & Supporting Documents](#))

BESE requested the report include:

- Information about implementing recommended changes in the Legislative Auditor's report (as well as the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates report) regarding dispute resolution,
- Special education infrastructure,
- Key performance indicators and
- A plan to make the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process easier for parents to use.

The implementation plan and policy were recently discussed and endorsed by the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) at their November 29th meeting. You can view the [plan and draft policy](#) shared at the SEAP meeting in addition to the [meeting minutes](#) if you would like additional information.

Do you feel LDOE's implementation plan and policy does enough to restore the Dispute Resolution process? Let committee members and your BESE members know what you think!

How to Take Action

1. **Email or call** the Chair and members of the Academic Goals and Instructional Improvement Committee before the committee meets on Tuesday, December 12th.

Preston Castille – Chair Preston.Castille@la.gov 225-342-5840

Dr. Holly Boffy Holly.Boffy@la.gov 337-354-5572

Dr. Belinda Davis Belinda.Davis@la.gov 225-342-5840

2. **Email or call** your BESE member and the at-large BESE members before the Board meets on Wednesday, December 13th.
 - [Click here](#) for BESE members' contact information.
 - Don't know who your BESE member is? Click [here](#) for a map of the BESE districts.

With your comments, please include your name, address, phone number, email address and the issue you are addressing. Don't forget to thank members for supporting the needs and interests of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

The meetings will be live streamed on BESE's [website](#) and their [YouTube Channel](#).

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.

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](#)

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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