



Action Alert #9

LEAP Appeals Up for Debate in House Education

March 18, 2024

Do you think Louisiana should be the only state in the union that does not allow for an appeal process when a student fails an End of Course (EOC) test needed for graduation?

In January, Governor Landry, by [Executive Order](#), vetoed the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education's (BESE) new policy establishing an appeals process for qualifying high school seniors who do not meet the state's EOC/LEAP test scoring requirement for graduation. Now, the legislature is looking at making this decision permanent with [House Bill 8](#) (HB8) by Representative Melerine.

HB8 will be debated in the House Education Committee Thursday, March 21st, at 9 AM ([Agenda](#)). Your thoughts on an appeals process for our state matters, and the House Education Committee needs to hear from you!

More information about this issue can be found in the Additional Information section below.

How to Take Action

1. **Email or call** the Chair and members of the House Education Committee before the committee meets Thursday, March 21st
 - House Education member list can be found [here](#). Click on member's name to see their contact information.
 - With your comments, please include your name, address, phone number, email address and bill number (HB8).
2. **Email** h-educ@legis.la.gov your public comments about Louisiana's EOC appeals process:
 - With your comments, please include your name, address, phone number, email address and bill number (HB8).

You can watch the committee meeting live from the [legislature's website](#). When the meeting is in progress, click the camera icon to access the broadcast.

Additional Information

Louisiana is one of only eight states that require students to pass a standardized test to graduate high school and is **the only state** that does **not** allow students to appeal a failed EOC test. To earn their diploma, students must continue to take the test until they pass. This leads to student frustration, humiliation and often times leads to school dropout. The evidence shows such tests actually decrease student motivation. It prevents Louisiana students who would otherwise graduate from joining the workforce, attending college or enlisting in the military. This leads to an overwhelming increase in the dependency of welfare programs.

While The April Dunn Act (2014) allows for students with disabilities with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) to graduate through an alternative pathway, there are many students with disabilities who do not have an IEP that struggle to pass EOC tests due to their disability.

Rather than investing in substantial efforts to improve teaching and learning, Louisiana has created a system that values EOC testing as the cure for our problems. These tests *may* have a place in our attempts to improve schools, but the inflated role they currently play represents our inability to create deeper reforms to move us away from a one-size-fits-all approach. EOC tests fail to account for differences between students such as language deficiencies, learning disabilities, difficult home lives, or varying knowledge of US cultural conventions.

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:

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