



Education and Employment (E/E) Committee Summary

Wednesday, July 30, 2025

The Bluebonnet Library, Rm #2

9200 Bluebonnet Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA.

4:15 PM – 6:00 PM

Virtual via Zoom ([Register](#)) / [Virtual Meeting Protocols](#)

Streaming Live on [YouTube](#)

View meeting transcript [here](#).

Members Present: Melissa Bayham, Jude Boynton, Christi Gonzales, Meredith Jordan, Erick Taylor, Vivienne Webb, Renoda Washington (Chair), Phil Wilson

Members Absent: Jamar Ennis, Lamartine Meda, Tony Piontek

Staff: Brenton Andrus, Lauren Brown, Stephanie Carmona, Ebony Haven, Hannah Jenkins, Bridgette Talley

Others Present: Alaina Chachere, Brenda Cossé, Mylinda Elliott, Angela Harmon, Jill Hano, Lynsey Hebert (transcriptionist), Chanel Jackson, Susan Riehn, Susan Roblow, Summer Stevenson, Robby Smith, Brooke Stewart, Mimi Webb, and Karen Xu

Call to Order & Quorum

Renoda Washington called the meeting to order at 4:17 PM. A quorum was established, meaning enough members were present to make decisions.

Meeting Summary Approval

Erick Taylor motioned to approve the April 2025 meeting summary. Vivienne Webb seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions. The summary was approved.

Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) Update

Melissa Bayham gave updates on pre-employment transition services (Pre-ETS), which help students with disabilities prepare for jobs

LRS Staffing and Services Update

- There are 23 open jobs at LRS right now.
- Missing out on about \$30 million in federal money they could have used to help people because they do not have the State General Funds to pull down.

Pre-ETS (Pre-Employment Transition Services)

- LRS told providers that there may be fewer services available for students in the next school year.
- They are working on hiring 4 new teams to help with Pre-ETS.
 - These teams will help in schools with things like IEP meetings.
 - This will make things easier for staff in Regions 1, 2, 7, and 8.

Career Services

- There may be fewer services available here too.
- They want to make sure students in rural areas still get good services.
- LRS held 4 focus groups with service providers.
 - They talked about ways to improve communication.
 - Most people said they want things to be more consistent.
- LRS is trying to hire 11 new vocational counselors, but it's hard because of a state hiring freeze.

Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) Update

Meredith Jordan gave updates about LDOE:

- LDOE will provide training on the new seclusion and restraint law to school systems using a train-the-trainer model.
- Policy updates to Bulletins 1706 and 741 will be presented at the August BESE meeting to align with the new law.
- The state budget now includes yearly funding for camera upkeep and maintenance in every school district.
- A line item was added to HB 1 to fund a dyslexia pilot program.

Legislative Update

The Council and LaCAN helped write a new law called Bill 479 to protect students with disabilities. Here's what the law says:

- Cameras must be added to self-contained special education classrooms by February 1, 2026.
- It gives clear definitions of what "seclusion" and "restraint" mean.
- Teachers must be trained before they are allowed to restrain or seclude a student.
- Only trained staff can use restraint or seclusion.
- If a student is restrained or secluded, a medical professional must check on them afterward.
- During IEP meetings, parents must be told that restraint or seclusion might happen.
- If restraint or seclusion is used, parents must be told that same day.
- Schools must follow clear rules for reporting, including when and how to report.
- Schools must share their policies with parents and Special Education Advisory Councils (SEACs).

E/E Contractual Updates

Stephanie Carmona gave a short update about [Activity 3.1.5](#) on the Council's 5-Year Plan. The Council is partnering with Team Dynamics to give trainings across the state for people with developmental disabilities.

Meeting Adjourned

There were no public comments. The meeting ended at 5:49 PM.