

# Report to Developmental Disabilities Council

April 2026

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## Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) Update

SEAP met March 18 and received several informational reports from the LDOE, focused on support for students with disabilities.

- [Materials](#): K-12 instructional materials review rubric for dyslexia high-quality instructional materials, the Louisiana Dyslexia Family Handbook, the Dyslexia Core Assessment Program, and the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf
- [Meeting recording](#)

Updates from LDOE included:

- Revisions to bulletins related to differentiated monitoring and support
- Federal fiscal year 2026 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act grant application

## Division of Diverse Learners' Leadership Collaborative

On March 30th, the Division of Diverse Learners hosted a Leadership Collaborative for special education directors and leaders across the state. Over 130 special education leaders attended for a day of collaboration, professional learning, and shared problem-solving. Participants engaged in meaningful networking and district-to-district discussions that focused on behavioral supports and alignment to the Special Education Playbook to better support diverse learners. Afternoon breakout sessions offered targeted learning around special education policy updates, data-informed decision-making, compliance and impact, and support for English Learners.

## IDEA Grant Application

Each year, the Department completes an IDEA grant application that outlines the use of IDEA Part B 611 state-level set aside funds. These funds are reserved for a variety of specified activities such as support and direct services, technical assistance and personnel preparation, monitoring and mediation, and

improving the use of technology in the classroom. Please review the Louisiana Department of Education IDEA application and interactive spreadsheet. All attachments are from last year as we are waiting for the FFY 2026 application, interactive spreadsheet and allocation information from the Department.

- [Louisiana Part B FFY2025 application](#)
- [Louisiana Part B 611 Interactive Spreadsheet](#)
- [Public Comment Form](#)

## Legislative Updates

### HB342

- HB342 would require that, in special education due process hearings, the local education agency (LEA) carry the burden of proof to demonstrate that a student's current or proposed program or placement is appropriate. The bill specifies that the LEA must meet this burden by a preponderance of the evidence.
- Under current Louisiana practice, consistent with U.S. Supreme Court precedent, the party seeking relief generally bears the burden of proof. In most cases, this means parents challenging an IEP must demonstrate that it is not appropriate. The bill would reverse that default rule in Louisiana by placing the burden on the LEA in all due process hearings.

### HB352

- HB352 would amend existing language to "Behavioral health services ~~may~~ shall be provided in a physical classroom, to the extent that it is medically necessary.."
- The proposed amendment also references supervision of the behavioral health provider stating that if supervision occurs virtually then no other student except the student receiving behavioral health services will be recorded.

### SB64

- Senate Bill 64, sponsored by Senator Hodges, addresses the policies surrounding video and audio recordings from cameras installed in self-contained special education classrooms.
- The bill amends existing privacy and disclosure protocols to add viewing mandates:
  - Requiring both the superintendent and his designee or requiring two designees of the superintendent to be present during the initial viewing of the recordings after a request has been made.

## Seclusion and Restraint

All incidents of seclusion and restraint must be reported in eSER.

- Monitoring through eSER
  - LDOE monitors incident reporting through the eSER system. This includes tracking the frequency of seclusion and restraint incidents at the student level.

- Behavior Plan Update:
  - Act 479 requires that when a student is secluded or restrained more than twice in a school year, the student’s behavior intervention plan (BIP) must be reviewed and updated.
    - Currently, eSER data serves as a key data source to track the frequency of incidents.
    - Monitoring occurs through a combination of:
      - Data reviews (including eSER incident data),
      - Monitoring processes, and
      - Follow-up with school systems when patterns or concerns are identified.
- Ensuring District Compliance: LDOE ensures compliance through:
  - Ongoing monitoring and compliance reviews,
  - Alignment with IDEA discipline and behavior requirements, and
  - Technical assistance and support to school systems.
- Policy Development:
  - School systems are responsible for developing policies aligned with Act 479. While policies may be implemented at the district level, they must meet state requirements. Policies are submitted to LDOE and outreach occurs to our school systems that have not submitted their policies.
- Guidance and Communication:
 

LDOE provides guidance to support implementation, including:

  - Written guidance and policy updates,
  - Professional learning opportunities, and
  - Direct communication with school systems through established channels (newsletters, monthly calls, diverse learner office hours, collaboratives, etc.).

## SPED Fellow Academy

The Division of Diverse Learners is excited to announce that the SPED Fellow Academy application for the 2026-2027 school year is now open! This opportunity is designed for novice special education leaders who are eager to grow their leadership skills, enhance their expertise, and make a lasting impact in the field of special education. The [application](#) will close May 1.

## SPP/APR Parent Involvement Survey

Every year the LDOE surveys parents on their perception of the quality of their child's education and the quality of their relationship with their child's school. The school systems selected for this year's survey include:

### Traditional School Districts

- Bienville Parish
- Bossier Parish
- Claiborne Parish
- Jackson Parish
- Jefferson Davis Parish
- Madison Parish
- Morehouse Parish
- St. Tammany Parish
- Terrebonne Parish
- Vermillion Parish
- West Baton Rouge Parish
- Special School District

### Charter Schools

- Lake Charles Charter
- Crescent City Schools
- LA Key Academy
- KIPP New Orleans
- Willow Charter Academy
- MLK for Sci Tech
- Lake Forest Elementary
- Lake Charles College Prep
- Wilson Charter School
- Einstein Charter Middle
- Dwight D. Eisenhower
- Benjamin Franklin Charter

Special education leaders for the selected school systems have received communication from the Division of Diverse Learners. The survey will close on July 1st.

## English Learner Institute

The final English Learner (EL) Institute will occur May 14. The EL Institute is grounded in the Louisiana EL Framework, with a focus on strengthening instructional systems, building capacity, and using data to plan and support ELs. Interested EL directors or coordinators are encouraged to attend.