

Developmental Disabilities Council: Report to the Education and Employment Committee

April 2026

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

IDEA Grant: Stakeholder Input

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.

- The [stakeholder input survey](#) should take no more than five minutes to complete and does not request any personally identifiable information.
 - Please complete this survey by Friday, April 10, 2026.
- Public comments for the IDEA grant application are currently open and can be submitted using the [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 two key mandates:
 - Mandatory Joint Viewing: It requires that both the school superintendent (or their designee) and the parent or legal guardian must be present during the initial viewing of any requested recordings
 - Mandatory Reporting: It requires that any person who views a recording and suspects that the footage shows a violation of state or federal law must report the suspected violation to the appropriate law enforcement agency

Seclusion and Restraint

All incidents of seclusion and restraint must be reported in eSER. Key considerations with this report include:

- Are teachers and school staff using consistent protocols/tools/timelines for collecting and maintaining data?
- What are the follow-up and intervention procedures when seclusion and restraint procedures repeatedly occur with the same student and/or adult?
- In what manner and under what timelines are incidents of seclusion and restraint communicated to principals, local special education directors, and parents?
- Who is responsible for submitting incidents of seclusion and restraint in eSER?

Special Education Camera Installation

The Louisiana Department of Education oversees submissions of funding and special education camera receipts via eGMS.

Louisiana Works' Partnership

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) and Louisiana Works (previously Louisiana Rehabilitation Services or LRS) has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to ensure students with disabilities are supported throughout the state. In the Fall of 2023, the LDOE was awarded a \$10,000,000.00 grant from the United States Department of Education Disability Innovation Fund ("DIF") Pathways to Partnerships Innovative Model Demonstration Grant to establish the Louisiana Center for Effective Transitions (LCET) and execute the LCET project scope of work. As part of the grant award, LDOE is required to partner with State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies ("SVRAs"), State Educational Agencies ("SEAs"), Local Educational Agencies ("LEAs"), and federally funded Centers for Independent Living ("CILs").

Based on the DIF grant MOU, LRS will provide support to LDOE and undertake the following activities during the duration of the MOU term:

- Appoint a representative who will engage with LDOE and other LCET project leads for the full 5-year project period
- Participate in the DIF grant LCET workgroup including virtual attendance at up to 4 quarterly workgroup meetings
- Guide LEAs and businesses in the process of becoming certified LRS vendors by offering necessary resources and instruction
- Engage in ongoing training and feedback on newly created resources and materials to ensure alignment and accuracy to policy and procedures
- Engage in ongoing collection of project data and the dissemination of project resources and information to students, families, local school systems, and businesses

Additionally, collaboration between agencies occurs as a representative from Louisiana Works attends SEAP meetings hosted by LDOE.