



Put on our Purple
BESE Meets October 13th
BESE needs to hear your voice!

October 6, 2015

Greetings!

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) meets next week.

WHEN: **Tuesday, October 13, 2015**



WHERE: **Claiborne Building**
The Louisiana Purchase Room (1-100)
1201 N. Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

During the Administrative and Finance Committee meeting BESE will consider the following major issue impacting students with disabilities:

- **Funding - will BESE distribute local funds to charter schools based on student needs?**

If this issue is important to you, put on your purple shirt and join fellow LaTEACH members at BESE to remind BESE members who we are and that decisions should be made that consider the best interest of ALL kids.

If you don't have a purple LaTEACH shirt, contact your [LaTEACH Regional Leader](#) or info@lateach.org and we will provide one for you at the BESE meeting.

BESE Agendas

Click the links below to see the agenda for each October 2015 BESE Committee and Board meeting.

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

9:00 AM - [Educator Effectiveness Committee](#)
9:30 AM - [School Innovation and Turnaround Committee](#)
10:00 AM - [Academic Goals and Instructional Improvement Committee](#)
12:30 PM - [Administration and Finance Committee](#)

4:00 PM [Full Board](#)

Contact your BESE member to tell them how you feel about these issues.

Click [HERE](#) for the list of BESE Members by district.

Additional Information

BESE/LDOE Continues Sending Charter Schools Local Revenue Needed To Serve Students with Disabilities Enrolled in Traditional Public Schools

The Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council and LaTEACH advocates have been asking and continue to ask for LDOE/BESE to correct the millions of local dollars flowing out of traditional schools serving students with disabilities to charter schools who are not serving their fair share of students with disabilities.

LDOE/BESE only fixed the state share, not the local share, of money diverted from traditional schools and sent to charter schools. The La. Developmental Disabilities Council has requested for all of the funds, including the local share, to follow the right students.

Charter schools have been getting too much money for the students they serve for years. After three years of requesting BESE to correct the funding inequities, Senator Dan Claitor successfully passed Act 467 of 2015 to clarify how funding for charter schools should follow the same formula used for traditional school systems. Instead of correcting both the state and local shares of funding to charter schools BESE/LDOE only corrected the state share of the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP). Simply put, local taxes are still being diverted to charter schools using a formula that rewards charter schools for not enrolling students with disabilities. And the amount of funds is significant.

There are two reasons the local portions of funds should be corrected. First, there is no language in law supporting the way LDOE/BESE is distributing local funding to charter schools. Second, since both state and local contributions to the MFP are based on student characteristics or needs and the state share is directly dependent on the local share, it is impossible to understand LDOE/BESE's position that the local portion is either not linked to the weighted student characteristics or that the local revenues are somehow independent from the amount of the state funds provided to schools.

In summary, LDOE/BESE wants to continue sending charter schools local money (from traditional school systems) based on an average amount for any student, regardless if the student has a disability or not (and it's mostly not). The result is charter schools receive a slice of local funding for students with disabilities for any student they enroll - even for students who do not have a disability.

How bad is the inequity?

This year, 2015-16, the correct formula was used for the state share of funding to charter schools. The 25 'new' Type II charter schools receiving \$3.3 million less, or, on average, \$225,000 less! The 8 legacy Type II schools had a total decrease of \$3.7 million in funding, or, on average, a decrease of \$471,000 each. See the table below for details of the impact of using the correct formula for just the state share of funds to charter schools.

The correction of just the state share of MFP funds revealed a pattern of charter schools not serving students with disabilities and other at-risk factors to the same degree as traditional school systems. Excluding students with disabilities and other at-risk factors causes an artificial rise in a school's performance score, and for charter schools this has resulted in them receiving money needed by schools serving students with higher costs needs.

Charter School Name	Amount of State MFP Funds Originally Calculated for FY2015-16 PRIOR TO ACT 467 (how charter schools were funded for years)	New Amount of State Funds with Act 467 (using same formula as traditional school systems for state share)	Difference (Impact of using same formula for state funds to charter schools as for traditional school systems in 2015-16; a negative indicates degree charter school is not serving fair share of students 'at-risk')
New Vision Learning	\$3,512,204	\$3,203,764	(\$308,440)
Glencoe Charter School	\$3,529,011	\$3,331,243	(\$197,768)
International School of LA	\$8,974,052	\$8,871,514	(\$102,538)
Avoyelles Public Charter School	\$5,574,311	\$4,663,961	(\$910,350)
Delhi Charter School	\$7,334,129	\$6,809,358	(\$524,771)
Belle Chasse Academy	\$12,897,962	\$11,194,860	(\$1,703,102)
Milestone Academy	\$3,836,778	\$3,781,698	(\$55,080)
The MAX Charter School	\$1,043,579	\$1,071,213	\$27,634
Total Legacy Type 2 Charter Schools	\$46,702,025	\$42,927,611	(\$3,774,414)
 Madison Prep (CSAL)	\$1,498,195	\$1,383,162	(\$115,033)
Southwest LA Charter School	\$4,404,985	\$4,231,158	(\$173,827)
Lake Charles College Prep	\$517,396	\$507,184	(\$10,212)
D'Arbonne Woods	\$4,392,063	\$3,762,113	(\$629,950)
Louisiana Virtual Charter Academy	\$9,288,490	\$8,975,080	(\$313,410)
Int'l High School of N. O.	\$2,425,381	\$2,222,891	(\$202,490)
Louisiana Connections Academy	\$8,629,956	\$8,135,268	(\$494,688)
Lake Charles Charter Academy	\$4,292,352	\$3,999,474	(\$292,878)
Lycee Francois de la Nouvelle Orleans	\$2,487,393	\$1,729,067	(\$758,326)
New Orleans Military/Maritime Admy	\$2,360,223	\$2,135,944	(\$224,279)
J. S. Clark Leadership Academy	\$1,181,608	\$1,093,904	(\$87,704)
Jefferson Chamber Foundation	\$501,718	\$455,180	(\$46,538)
Tallulah Charter School	\$2,054,802	\$1,766,030	(\$288,772)
Baton Rouge Charter Academy at Mid-City	\$2,503,561	\$2,357,000	(\$146,561)
Iberville Charter Academy	\$933,376	\$864,977	(\$68,399)
Delta Charter School	\$2,489,291	\$2,175,175	(\$314,116)
Northshore Charter School	\$3,149,421	\$2,825,173	(\$324,248)
Louisiana Key Academy	\$795,682	\$812,613	\$16,931
Impact Charter	\$979,801	\$851,348	(\$128,453)
Vision Academy	\$1,139,263	\$957,743	(\$181,520)
Advantage Charter Academy	\$2,093,072	\$1,857,600	(\$235,472)
Willow Charter Academy	\$1,878,027	\$1,840,507	(\$37,520)
Northeast Claiborne Charter	\$887,139	\$742,883	(\$144,256)
Acadiana Renaissance	\$2,664,354	\$2,356,297	(\$308,057)
Lafayette Renaissance	\$2,121,010	\$2,001,636	(\$119,374)
Total New Type 2 Charter Schools	\$65,668,560	\$62,329,107	(\$3,339,453)
 Total RSD - Caddo	\$2,693,575	\$2,658,809	(\$34,766)
Total RSD - East Baton Rouge	\$10,323,609	\$10,211,776	(\$111,833)
Total RSD - Orleans	\$132,378,035	\$124,821,207	(\$7,556,828)

Did You Take Action?

Please let us know if you contacted your BESE Member or attended a BESE meeting by emailing us at info@lateach.org.



Any questions?

If there are any questions about the information in this alert, contact LaTEACH at:

Email: info@lateach.org

Phone: 1-800-450-8108

Phone: 1-800-894-6558

Website: www.lateach.org



LaTEACH is an initiative of the [Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council](#).