



## Action Alert #8: BESE needs to hear from you about rules for reopening schools during the COVID-19 pandemic

July 9, 2020

**BESE will meet next Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 p.m. to establish minimum standards for schools to follow in reopening during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

[Act 9 \(HB59\) of the 2020 First Extraordinary Session](#) requires the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to adopt emergency rules informed by the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) and Prevention guidelines](#) to provide minimum standards, policies, medical exceptions, and regulations to govern the reopening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year. These rules must ensure students, faculty, staff, and others on school property are protected to the extent possible and practical from COVID-19.

Some children and adults, including some people with developmental disabilities, are at increased risk of illness due to COVID-19. [Click here to read research on the impact of COVID-19 on people with developmental disabilities.](#)

It is not clear what medical exceptions will be considered by BESE. The only example in the CDC guidance to reduce risk for students at higher risk of severe illness is offering virtual learning opportunities. Will virtual learning opportunities work for your child or situation?

[Click here](#) to see papers by the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates regarding considerations for students with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic

### How to Take Action

1. **Email** Superintendent Dr. Cade Brumley at [Cade.Brumley@la.gov](mailto:Cade.Brumley@la.gov) by Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup>!
2. **Email or call** your district BESE member and members at-large by Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup>!
  - Don't know who your BESE member is? [Click here](#) to view the BESE district map.

Share your personal story and express your thoughts on rules for reopening schools during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### BESE Member Listing By District

1st BESE District	Mr. James D. Garvey, Jr.	<a href="mailto:James.Garvey@la.gov">James.Garvey@la.gov</a>
2nd BESE District	Ms. Kira Orange Jones	<a href="mailto:Kira.OrangeJones@la.gov">Kira.OrangeJones@la.gov</a>
3rd BESE District	Ms. Sandy Holloway	<a href="mailto:Sandy.Holloway@la.gov">Sandy.Holloway@la.gov</a>

<b>4th BESE District</b>	<b>Mr. Tony Davis</b>	<a href="mailto:Tony.Davis@la.gov">Tony.Davis@la.gov</a>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> BESE District</b>	<b>Ms. Ashley Ellis</b>	<a href="mailto:Ashley.Ellis@la.gov">Ashley.Ellis@la.gov</a>
<b>6th BESE District</b>	<b>Mr. Ronnie Morris</b>	<a href="mailto:Ronnie.Morris@la.gov">Ronnie.Morris@la.gov</a>
<b>7th BESE District</b>	<b>Dr. Holly Boffy</b>	<a href="mailto:Holly.Boffy@la.gov">Holly.Boffy@la.gov</a>
<b>8th BESE District</b>	<b>Mr. Preston Castille</b>	<a href="mailto:Preston.Castille@la.gov">Preston.Castille@la.gov</a>
<b>Members At-Large</b>	<b>Dr. Belinda Davis</b>	<a href="mailto:Belinda.Davis@la.gov">Belinda.Davis@la.gov</a>
	<b>Mr. Thomas Roque</b>	<a href="mailto:Thomas.Roque@la.gov">Thomas.Roque@la.gov</a>
	<b>Ms. Doris Voitier</b>	<a href="mailto:Doris.Voitier@la.gov">Doris.Voitier@la.gov</a>

## You Can Watch BESE Meetings Online

You can stream the BESE meeting live [here](#).

## Confirm Your Action

- Notify your [LaCAN Leader](#) to confirm your 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.

## 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:

phone: 1-800-450-8108

email: [info@laddc.org](mailto:info@laddc.org)

website: [www.lacanadvocates.org](http://www.lacanadvocates.org)

facebook: [www.facebook.com/LaDDCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/LaDDCouncil)

twitter: [www.twitter.com/LaDDCouncil](http://www.twitter.com/LaDDCouncil)

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