

Louisiana Special School District



Special School District Board of Directors

Board Meeting
November 8, 2021
12:30 PM

2888 Brightside Dr., Baton Rouge, LA
Student Activity Center, Rm 196

Louisiana Special School District History

- Louisiana's Institute for the Deaf and Dumb and Blind opened in 1852 with an appropriation of \$25,000 and a seven-member Board of Administrators.
- In 1870, the State School for the Blind established its own campus.
- The Louisiana Legislature established a school for the Deaf/Blind children of the Negro race in 1920 but did not appropriate any funds for a facility for the students.
- Segregation was ended in 1978 and the two blind and two deaf schools merged.
- In 2009, the Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired relocated to the campus on Brightside Drive where they share a 116-acre campus with the Louisiana School for the Deaf.



About the Special School District

- The Special School District, created in 1977, is considered an *education service agency* and includes the Louisiana Special Schools and Special School Programs
- **Louisiana Special Schools** consists of the Louisiana School for the Deaf and the Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired.
- The **Special School Programs** provides special education and related services to students in state-operated and private facilities.
- An *education service agency* is a regional public multiservice administrative agency authorized by state law to develop, manage, and provide services or programs to local education agencies and includes any other public institution or agency having administrative control and direction over a public elementary or secondary school.



About the Special School District

- Act 468 (HB 253), a 2021 bill sponsored by Rep. Scott McKnight, passed unanimously in the state House and Senate and reclassified the Special School District as an independent state agency with oversight by a Board of Directors.
- The Board of Directors is made up of 12 members – 11 appointed by the Governor and one appointed by the BESE President.
- The law provides for the Special School District to be included in the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP).



Special School District Board of Directors Duties

- Accept donations, or other forms of financial assistance for educational purposes.
- Purchase land and equipment and make improvements to facilities necessary for the use of the district in accordance with applicable law.
- Lease land or other property belonging to the district, subject to approval of the commissioner of administration and in accordance with applicable law.
- Sell or exchange land or other immovable property not needed for district purposes, but only when authorized by law and in accordance with procedures for unused school lands.



Special School District Board of Director Duties

- Adopt rules, regulations, and policies necessary or proper for the conduct of the business of the board.
- Award certificates and issue diplomas for successful completion of programs of study. All such certificates and diplomas shall be in addition to a regular high school diploma which shall be issued by BESE to any student who successfully completes the program of study adopted by the state.
- Enter into contracts and agreements that have been recommended by the superintendent.
- Adopt rules, regulations, and policies that are necessary for the efficient operation of the district.



Special School District Board of Director Duties

- Establish criteria to be used in determining eligibility of applicants for enrollment in accordance with R.S. 17:1945(B)(2).
- Prescribe and select for use of free textbooks and other materials of instruction.
- Enter into an agreement, as recommended by the superintendent, with a city, parish, or other local public school system to participate in educational and academic programs or courses.
- Select a superintendent who shall act as the chief administrative officer of the district and who shall administer the rules, regulations, and policies adopted by the board.



Special School District Board of Director Duties

SSD Board Members are required to:

- Complete state ethics requirements, annually.
- Complete and submit the Tier 2.1 Financial Disclosure Form on or before May 15 annually to the Board of Ethics. This must also be completed the year following a board member's final year of service, even if they vacate their position in the middle of the year.



District Report Highlights Special School Programs

Special School Programs for SY 2019-2020

Special and General Education Services provided for:

- Central Louisiana Supports & Services Center
- Pinecrest Supports and Services Center
- Swanson Center for Youth at Monroe (Southside Alternative High School)
- Pinehill Alternative High School
- Bridge City Center for Youth (Riverside Alternative High School)
- Acadiana Center for Youth
- David Wade Correctional Center
- Louisiana State Penitentiary



District Report Highlights Special School Programs

Special School Programs for SY 2019-2020

Special and General Education Services provided for:

- Dixon Correctional Institute
- Elayn Hunt Correctional Center
- Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women
- Raymond Laborde Correctional Center
- B.B. Rayburn Correctional Center
- Renaissance Home for Youth
- Methodist Children's Home of Greater New Orleans
- East Louisiana Mental Health System



District Report Highlights – Special School Programs Performance Scores

Special School Programs for SY 2018-2019

School Performance Scores:

School/Program	Performance Score
Riverside Alternative High School (Bridge City Center for Youth)	42.8
Southside Alternative High School (Swanson Center for Youth at Monroe)	34.6



Alternative schools and programs only receive a performance score if there are 40 or more testing units given.

District Report Highlights – School Performance Scores

Louisiana Schools for the Deaf and Visually Impaired

School Performance Scores by School Year									
School	*2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	**2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
LSD	42.8	15.8	21.8	26.6	21.3	20	37.6/29.5	32.8	N/A
LSVI	43.9	31.4	49.1	44.1	43.8	43.8	59.4/57.2	***N/A	N/A



District Report Highlights - ACT



Site Name	2019-2020 Student Count	2019-2020 Average Composite Score
Louisiana School for the Deaf	13	14.7
Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired	<10	~
	2018-2019 Student Count	2018-2019 Average Composite Score
Louisiana School for the Deaf	11	14
Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired	<10	~
	2017-2018 Student Count	2017-2018 Average Composite Score
Louisiana School for the Deaf	≤10	~
Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired	≤10	~
	2016-2017 Student Count	2016-2017 Average Composite Score
Louisiana School for the Deaf	<10	~
Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired	<10	~
	2015-2016 Student Count	2015-2016 Average Composite Score
Louisiana School for the Deaf	<10	~
Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired	<10	~

District Report Highlights

Diplomas Earned

School	% TOPS University Diploma	% TOPS Tech Jump Start Career Diploma	% Alternate Assessment – Jump Start Career Diploma
Louisiana School for the Deaf	31%	56%	13%
Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired	0%	80%	20%



The April Dunn Act was applied to 60% of the TOPS University diploma graduates and 100% to the TOPS Tech Jump Start Career diploma graduates.

District Report Highlights Career Opportunities

Louisiana School for the Deaf

- Construction – NCCER
- Information Technology
- Graphic Arts or Digital Media Arts
- Automotive Services under Transportation, Distribution and Logistics
- Hospitality and Tourism (Customer Services and ProStart for Culinary Arts)
- Agriscience



District Report Highlights Career Opportunities

Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired

- Information Technology
- Automobile Service Repair
- Hospitality/Tourism, Culinary and Retail
- Digital Media and Entertainment Technology
- Agriculture Technology



District Report Highlights

Enrollment Counts



School/Program	October 1 count, 2020-2021 School Year	February 1 count, 2020-2021 School Year	Difference
LA School for the Deaf	97	103	+6
LA School for the Visually Impaired	61	69	+8
LA School for the Deaf Parent-Pupil Education Program (PPep)	203	214	+11
LA School for the Visually Impaired Outreach	72	92	+20

Special School Programs served 408 students for the 2020-2021 school year. **Total – 886.**

District Report Highlights

Fiscal Operations

The Special School District moved from the Department of Education into Special Schools and Commissions in House Bill 1, the budget bill. The SSD is Schedule 19-656.

The legislature determines the SSD budget annually. This includes:

- Where the funds come from and where they are to be used. Funds for SSD come from the State General Fund, Interagency Transfers, Fees and Self Generated Revenues, and Statutory Dedications.
- Table of Organization (TO) or the number of authorized personnel positions and the amount of funding allocated to fund those positions.
- Total budget appropriated for FY22 is \$33,767,167.
- The SSD and its Board of Directors have no authority to levy a tax.

