

2025-26 Louisiana Special Education Formal State Complaint Decisions

This document contains a copy of the decisions of each Louisiana special education formal state complaint filed on or between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026. Each case filed during the relevant timeframe is included in the informational table below. If a decision has been issued, the decision will appear below. This document is updated at least monthly on the last business day of the month.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Department at DisputeResolution.DOE@la.gov.

LDOE Case Number	Public Agency	Decision	Date of Decision
56-C-01	Tangipahoa Parish	Noncompliance	September 8, 2025
56-C-02	Terrebonne Parish	Withdrawn	August 7, 2025
56-C-03	St. Tammany Parish	Withdrawn	September 4, 2025
56-C-04	St. Charles Parish	Withdrawn	August 11, 2025
56-C-05	St. Tammany Parish	Withdrawn	September 4, 2025
56-C-06	Pointe Coupee Parish	Pending	--
56-C-07	St. Landry Parish	Pending	--
56-C-08	NOLA Public Schools	Pending	--
56-C-09	Rapides Parish	Withdrawn	September 5, 2025
56-C-10	NOLA Public Schools	Pending	--
56-C-11	Rapides Parish	Pending	--
56-C-12	Rapides Parish	Withdrawn	September 15, 2025
56-C-13	Iberia Parish	Pending	--
56-C-14	West Baton Rouge Parish	Pending	--
56-C-15	Rapides Parish	Pending	--
56-C-16	East Baton Rouge Parish	Pending	--
56-C-17	St. Landry Parish	Pending	--
56-C-18	Livingston Parish	Pending	--
56-C-19	Calcasieu Parish	Pending	--
56-C-20	Jefferson Parish	Pending	--
56-C-21	Ascension Parish	Pending	--

Louisiana Special Education Complaint Investigation

56-C-01





LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

September 8, 2025



Rachel DiBenedetto
Special Education Coordinator
Tangipahoa Parish School System
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Rachel.dibenedetto@tangischools.org

Re: Findings-Decision in State Special Education Formal Complaint No. **56-C-01** on behalf of [REDACTED]

I. Introduction

On July 9, 2025, the complainant ("Parent") submitted a formal written request for a filed a Request for special education complaint investigation to the Louisiana Department of Education ("the Department") on behalf of [REDACTED] child ("Student"), who is enrolled in a school under the jurisdiction of the Tangipahoa Parish School System ("District"). The parent requested that the Department initiate an investigation pursuant to the state complaint procedures set forth in Louisiana Bulletin 1706 §§ 151 through 153.

II. Statement of the Case

In the complaint, the Parent alleges that the District violated the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA"), 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.; the implementing federal regulations at 34 C.F.R. Part 300; the Louisiana Children with Exceptionalities Act, R.S. 17:1941 et seq.; and/or the Department's implementing regulations promulgated in Louisiana Bulletin 1706. Specifically the parent alleges the District:

1. Failed to convene an IEP Team meeting and apply the required eligibility criteria in determining the Student's need for Extended School Year (ESY) services, resulting in a unilateral denial communicated outside the IEP process and without affording the Parent an opportunity for meaningful participation; and
2. Failed to provide prior written notice in connection with the District's determination that the Student was ineligible for ESY, including failure to ensure that any written communication reflected an individualized analysis of the Student's needs, the data considered, and the rationale for the decision.

As the Department's assigned investigator, I have reviewed the complaint, the District's written response and all supporting documents submitted by both parties. The findings of fact and conclusions of law that follow are based on a comprehensive review of the submitted records and the applicable legal provisions. Pursuant to Louisiana Bulletin 1706 § 152(C), a formal complaint may only address alleged violations that occurred within the two years prior to the date that the complaint is received in accordance with §§ 151 through 153." The Department received the complaint on July 9, 2025. Therefore, the investigation was limited to alleged violations of law that occurred between July 10, 2023, and July 9, 2025.

III. Findings of Fact

At all times relevant to this complaint, the Student was enrolled at a District school and receiving special education under the classification of Other Health Impairments. The Student's IEP provided for thirty minutes of occupational therapy per week in the special education setting and ninety minutes per week of special education instruction in the regular education setting. Progress towards annual goals was to be measured by completion of targeted activities with at least 85% accuracy with cues, prompts and assistance in 6 out of 8 trials each grading period throughout the IEP year.

By email dated January 14, 2025, the Parent contacted the District expressing concerns regarding the Student's recent behavior at school which had been documented by the school and communicated to the Parent. The Parent stated that the behaviors reflected regression in social, behavioral, emotional, and communication functioning. In the same email, the Parent requested: (a) copies of any data that would be used to determine eligibility for Extended School Year (ESY) services; (b) renewal of her prior request for an Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE); and (c) the participation of a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) at the next IEP Team meeting.

By email dated January 27, 2025, the District provided an initial notice of the Student's annual IEP meeting scheduled for February 6, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. to be held at Kids Haven. In a reply email, the Parent communicated that she would be unable to attend at the selected time and the District agreed to change the meeting time to 2:30. In an email dated January 30, 2025, the District notified the parent of a change in the meeting location and attached a second notice reflecting the new time and location. Additionally, by email dated February 4, 2025, the District provided a draft IEP to the parent. As scheduled, the meeting convened with the Parent in attendance. The Student's IEP was reviewed and revised to include specific social and emotional objectives to address the Student's behavior as well as incorporate additional accommodations and modifications. At the February 6, 2025 meeting, the IEP Team also reviewed the criteria for ESY, noting that the Student would be considered under Critical Point of Instruction (CPI) 1 and CPI 2. The IEP notes reflect that the Parent attended the meeting, but left before signing the IEP. The District noted in the IEP that the NPRA and a copy of the IEP was sent home to the parent in the student's communication folder. Additionally, a copy of the IEP and NPRA were provided during an in-person meeting on February 21, 2025.

On March 24, 2025, the District conducted screenings to determine if the Student met the eligibility criteria for ESYs under CPI1 and CPI2¹ and determined the Student was ineligible for services. By letter dated April 28, 2025—sent home from the school with the Student in their communication folder on April 30, 2025—the District notified the Parent of the Student's ineligibility for ESYs. The letter included a copy of the ESYs criteria documentation form and informed the Parent of their right to request an IEP Team meeting if they disagreed with the District's determination.

On July 9, 2025, the Parent filed the complaint that formed the basis of the Department's investigation.

IV. Conclusions of Law

Allegation 1

The Parent alleges the District made a unilateral decision to deny the Student's ESYs eligibility outside of the IEP process and without providing the Parent meaningful participation in the ineligibility determination.

¹ However, the record does not reflect that CPI2 criterion were applied. In the District's copy of the ESYs criteria documentation form provided to the parent selections were applied only for CPI1 and none for CPI2.

Pursuant to Bulletin 1706 §106(A)(2), ESY services must be provided only if the IEP Team determines, on an individual basis, that such services are necessary to ensure FAPE. In making this determination, the IEP Team must review all pertinent ESY criteria and relevant performance data, consistent with Bulletin 1530 §703(B). Eligibility decisions must be based on one or more of the following criteria: (1) Regression–Recoupment, (2) Critical Point of Instruction (CPI), or (3) Special Circumstances, as set forth in Bulletin 1530 §705. An IEP Team may defer the ESY eligibility decision until additional performance data is available, but the decision must be finalized prior to the onset of ESY services, pursuant to Bulletin 1530 §707(B)(4). When a student is determined ineligible for ESY services based on performance data, the district must provide written notification to the parent and inform them of their due process rights, as mandated by Bulletin 1530 §707(E). Additionally, school districts must ensure that parents are afforded the opportunity to participate in IEP Team meetings under Bulletin 1706 §322 and must issue Prior Written Notice of any proposals or refusals regarding FAPE in accordance with Bulletin 1706 §504.

In this case, the District notified the parent of the time and location of the IEP meeting 10 days prior to the scheduled meeting and then ensured the Parent was notified of the updated change of location and time approximately 7 days prior. The Parent received these notices—including a draft IEP sent via email February 4, 2025—and attended the February 6, 2026 IEP Team meeting. The District satisfied its obligation under Bulletin 1530 when the IEP Team reviewed the ESY criterion during the meeting—concluding criteria for CPI1 and CPI2 would be applied to the Student—prior to its determination of eligibility. The record is absent any evidence the Parent requested an IEP meeting to submit for review any new performance data prior to the screening and eligibility determination. As permitted by Bulletin 1530 §707(B)(4), the District analyzed the Student’s performance data on March 24, 2025 and determined that—based on CPI1—the Student did not meet eligibility criteria for ESY. Its subsequent April 28, 2025 notification letter to the Parent satisfied its obligation under §707(E) to inform the Parent of (1) the student’s ineligibility for ESY and (2) the Parent’s right to request an IEP meeting if they disagreed with the determination.

The Parent did not request an IEP meeting following the receipt of the ineligibility letter. Absent such request, the District was under no obligation to conduct an additional IEP meeting to review the results of the screening or reconsider the student’s eligibility. While it is within the Parent’s prerogative to leave an IEP Team meeting prior to its conclusion, their absence from the completion of an IEP review and any consequential lack of continued involvement in the meeting does not amount to a denial of meaningful participation, but rather a choice to simply no longer participate in the IEP Team meeting.

Thus, with respect to allegation 1, the Department finds the District did not act unilaterally to determine the student’s ESY ineligibility and the Parent was provided an opportunity to meaningfully participate in the determination. As such, the Department finds this portion of the allegation unsubstantiated.

Allegation 2

The Parent alleges the District failed to provide prior written notice in connection with the District’s determination that the Student was ineligible for ESY, including failure to ensure that any written communication reflected an individualized analysis of the Student’s needs, the data considered, and the rationale for the decision.

As outlined in Allegation 1, Bulletin 1530 §707(E) mandates that when a student is determined ineligible for ESY services based on performance data, Districts must provide written notification to the parent and inform them of their due process rights. Additionally, school districts must issue Prior Written Notice of any proposals or refusals regarding FAPE in accordance with Bulletin 1706 §504.

Here, the District was only mandated to issue a written notification of ineligibility to the parent. The April 28, 2025 ineligibility letter satisfied this obligation. The District was under no further obligation to provide an additional prior written notice because it was not refusing to provide ESY services to the student, but rather notifying the parent of the student's ineligibility for those services. As such, the Department finds this portion of allegation 2 is unsubstantiated.

However, at the February 6th meeting, the IEP Team concluded that the criteria for CPI1 and CPI2 would be applied to the Student. Yet, the record reflects that the Student was only screened under CPI1. Moreover, the ESY Criteria Documentation Form as well as the notification of ineligibility letter indicates the District only screened the Student's data under CPI1. Because special education and related services must be provided in accordance with the student's IEP, the failure to apply both CPI1 and CPI2 as directed constitutes a deviation from the IEP Team's decision.

Therefore, while the District provided notice compliant with Bulletin 1530§707(E), it failed to screen the Student for eligibility for ESY services under CPI2 as required in the Student's IEP. For this reason, the Department finds this portion of allegation 2 substantiated.

V. Corrective Action Plan

Corrective Action for Allegation 2 in part: Violation of the IDEA and Bulletin 1706

1. Within 60 calendar days of the date of this decision, the District shall screen the student's performance data that was available at the time of the screening using the CPI2 criterion as indicated on the student's February 6, 2025 IEP.
 - a. The Team shall determine eligibility based on the results of the screening;
 - b. If the screening reveals the student's ineligibility for ESY, the District shall notify the parent in writing in accordance with Bulletin 1530;
 - c. If the screening results reveal the student was eligible for ESY, the District shall provide compensatory services to the student in the amount the student would have received had the student been determined eligible at the time of the determination.
2. In conjunction with the above, the District shall review and revise local policies, procedures or practices that may contribute to the failure in implementing a student's IEP in its entirety. A written narrative summarizing changes and compliance measures shall be submitted to the Department within 60 calendar days.

Sincerely,



Lindsey P. Dupree
Investigating Attorney
Office of Executive Counsel
Louisiana Department of Education
(225) 342-3572 (phone)/(225) 342-1197 (fax)
DisputeResolution.DOE@la.gov

CC: Melissa Stilley, Superintendent, Tangipahoa Parish School System (email only)

Louisiana Special Education Complaint Investigation

56-C-02





LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

August 7, 2025



Blaise Pellegrin, Supervisor
Special Education Department
Terrebonne Parish School District
201 Stadium Drive
Houma, LA 70360
blaisepellegrin@tpsd.org

RE: Formal Complaint Investigation on behalf of [REDACTED]
Dismissal of Special Education Formal Complaint No. **56-C-02**

Dear [REDACTED] and Blaise Pellegrin:

On August 7, 2025, the Louisiana Department of Education received notification that indicated that parties to this formal complaint reached a mutually agreeable resolution and that the complainant wished to withdraw the formal complaint investigation request.

Therefore, the LDOE is officially dismissing special education formal complaint **56-C-02**. No further action is required by either party.

Sincerely,

Domonique Dickerson
Investigating Attorney
Office of Executive Counsel
Louisiana Department of Education
(225) 342-3572 (phone)/(225) 342-1197 (fax)
DisputeResolution.DOE@la.gov

CC: Aubrey "Bubba" Orgeron Jr., Superintendent, Terrebonne Parish School District (email only)

Louisiana Believes

Louisiana Special Education Complaint Investigation

56-C-03





LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

September 4, 2025



Kerri Soo, Supervisor
Special Education Department
St. Tammany Parish Public Schools
706 West 28th Street
Covington, LA 70433
Kerri.soo@stpsb.org

RE: Formal Complaint Investigation on behalf of [REDACTED]
Dismissal of Special Education Formal Complaint No. **56-C-03**

Dear Parties:

On August 18, 2025, the Louisiana Department of Education received notification that indicated that parties to this formal complaint reached a mutually agreeable resolution and that the complainant wished to withdraw the formal complaint investigation request.

Therefore, the LDOE is officially dismissing special education formal complaint **56-C-03**. No further action is required by either party.

Sincerely,

Domonique Dickerson
Investigating Attorney
Office of Executive Counsel
Louisiana Department of Education
(225) 342-3572 (phone)/(225) 342-1197 (fax)
DisputeResolution.DOE@la.gov

CC: Frank Jabbia, Superintendent, St. Tammany Parish Public Schools (email only)

Louisiana Believes

Louisiana Special Education Complaint Investigation

56-C-04





LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

August 11, 2025

Mendy Van Hoven, Director
Special Education Department
St. Charles Parish Public Schools
13855 River Road
Luling, LA 70070
mvanhoven@wearescpss.org

RE: Formal Complaint Investigation on behalf of [REDACTED]
Dismissal of Special Education Formal Complaint No. **56-C-04**

Dear [REDACTED] and Mendy Van Hoven:

On August 7, 2025, the Louisiana Department of Education received notification that indicated that parties to this formal complaint reached a mutually agreeable resolution and that the complainant wished to withdraw the formal complaint investigation request.

Therefore, the LDOE is officially dismissing special education formal complaint **56-C-04**. No further action is required by either party.

Sincerely,

Domonique Dickerson
Investigating Attorney
Office of Executive Counsel
Louisiana Department of Education
(225) 342-3572 (phone)/(225) 342-1197 (fax)
DisputeResolution.DOE@la.gov

CC: Dr. Ken Oertling Superintendent, St. Charles Parish Public Schools (email only)

Louisiana Believes

Louisiana Special Education Complaint Investigation

56-C-05





LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

September 4, 2025



Kerri Soo, Supervisor
Special Education Department
St. Tammany Parish Public Schools
706 West 28th Street
Covington, LA 70433
Kerri.soo@stpsb.org

RE: Formal Complaint Investigation on behalf of [REDACTED]
Dismissal of Special Education Formal Complaint No. **56-C-05**

Dear Parties:

On September 3, 2025, the Louisiana Department of Education received notification that indicated that parties to this formal complaint reached a mutually agreeable resolution and that the complainant wished to withdraw the formal complaint investigation request.

Therefore, the LDOE is officially dismissing special education formal complaint **56-C-05**. No further action is required by either party.

Sincerely,

Domonique Dickerson
Investigating Attorney
Office of Executive Counsel
Louisiana Department of Education
(225) 342-3572 (phone)/(225) 342-1197 (fax)
DisputeResolution.DOE@la.gov

CC: Frank Jabbia, Superintendent, St. Tammany Parish Public Schools (email only)

Louisiana Believes

Louisiana Special Education Complaint Investigation

56-C-06



Louisiana Special Education Complaint Investigation

56-C-07



Louisiana Special Education Complaint Investigation

56-C-08



Louisiana Special Education Complaint Investigation

56-C-09





LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

September 5, 2025



Michael Yoist
Special Education Director
Rapides Parish Schools
4515 Eddie Williams Ave
Alexandria, LA 71302
Michael.yoist@rpsb.us

RE: Formal Complaint Investigation on behalf of [REDACTED]
Dismissal of Special Education Formal Complaint No. **56-C-09**

Dear Parties:

On September 4, 2025, the Louisiana Department of Education received notification that indicated that parties to this formal complaint reached a mutually agreeable resolution and that the complainant wished to withdraw the formal complaint investigation request.

Therefore, the LDOE is officially dismissing special education formal complaint **56-C-09**. No further action is required by either party.

Sincerely,

Domonique Dickerson
Investigating Attorney
Office of Executive Counsel
Louisiana Department of Education
(225) 342-3572 (phone)/(225) 342-1197 (fax)
DisputeResolution.DOE@la.gov

CC: Jeff Powell, Superintendent, Rapides Parish Schools (email only)

Louisiana Believes

Louisiana Special Education Complaint Investigation

56-C-10



Louisiana Special Education Complaint Investigation

56-C-11



Louisiana Special Education Complaint Investigation

56-C-12





LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

September 15, 2025



Michael Yoist
Special Education Director
Rapides Parish School Board
4515 Eddie Williams Ave.
Alexandria, LA 71302
Michael.yoist@rpsb.us

RE: Formal Complaint Investigation on behalf of [REDACTED]
Dismissal of Special Education Formal Complaint No. **56-C-12**

Dear Parties:

On September 12, 2025, the Louisiana Department of Education received notification that indicated that parties to this formal complaint reached a mutually agreeable resolution and that the complainant wished to withdraw the formal complaint investigation request.

Therefore, the LDOE is officially dismissing special education formal complaint **56-C-12**. No further action is required by either party.

Sincerely,

Domonique Dickerson
Investigating Attorney
Office of Executive Counsel
Louisiana Department of Education
(225) 342-3572 (phone)/(225) 342-1197 (fax)
DisputeResolution.DOE@la.gov

CC: Jeff Powell, Superintendent, Rapides Parish School Board (email only)

Louisiana Believes

Louisiana Special Education Complaint Investigation

56-C-13



Louisiana Special Education Complaint Investigation

56-C-14



Louisiana Special Education Complaint Investigation

56-C-15



Louisiana Special Education Complaint Investigation

56-C-16



Louisiana Special Education Complaint Investigation

56-C-17



Louisiana Special Education Complaint Investigation

56-C-18



Louisiana Special Education Complaint Investigation

56-C-19



Louisiana Special Education Complaint Investigation

56-C-20



Louisiana Special Education Complaint Investigation

56-C-21

