

## Information on Act 468

[Act 468](#) (HB 253) of the 2021 Regular Legislative Session was signed into law on June 30, 2021. Effective July 1 the Special School District (SSD), which consists of the Special School Programs (SSP) and the Louisiana Schools for the Deaf and Visually Impaired (LSDVI), became an independent state agency.

Act 468 removed the SSD from the oversight of the Louisiana Department of Education. The SSD previously had two budgets (one for the SSP and one for the LSDVI) with overlapping human resource and administrative functions with the Department of Education. This overlap between the two agencies was not an efficient manner in which to operate.

The establishment of the SSP and LSDVI under one governing agency provides for more streamlined and efficient operations such as purchasing, contracts, and hiring of personnel. The SSP and LSDVI will continue to operate as local education agencies, but they are under the charge of the SSD, which is an education service agency.

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. ([R.S. 17:1942\(C\)](#))

The law creates a board of directors to oversee the SSD. The board is responsible for approving policies and employing a superintendent. The board is made up of twelve members. Eleven members are appointed by the governor and one member of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) who shall be appointed by the BESE president.

Act 468 also provides for the SSD to be included in the Minimum Foundation Program or MFP. The MFP is the funding formula that all public schools receive. The MFP is a more reliable source of funding for students because it is not included in budget cuts when there is a budget deficit. If BESE or the legislature does not advance a new MFP formula, the funding remains the same as the previous year. Therefore, the funding may not increase, but it is not decreased. Inclusion in the formula provides stable funding for the instruction of students. The SSD will be included in the MFP Formula beginning with the 2022-2023 school year.

Representative Scott McKnight of Baton Rouge authored the legislation. The SSD thanks him for authoring the bill and for successfully moving it through the legislative process.

## **In the News:**

### **The Advocate**

[https://www.theadvocate.com/baton\\_rouge/news/politics/legislature/article\\_e3958dae-d438-11eb-86bf-d73d5e4f885a.html](https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/politics/legislature/article_e3958dae-d438-11eb-86bf-d73d5e4f885a.html)

### **US News**

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/louisiana/articles/2021-07-04/louisiana-reorganizes-schools-for-blind-deaf-students>

### **WBRZ**

<https://www.wbrz.com/news/louisiana-reorganizes-schools-for-blind-deaf-students/>

### **BR Proud**

<https://www.brproud.com/news/local-news/gov-edwards-signs-bill-into-law-establishing-special-school-district-as-an-independent-state-agency/>

### **Rep. Scott McKnight on the Brian Haldane Show, Talk 107.3**

[https://talk1073.com/2021/07/06/mornings-with-brian-haldane-7-6-21-hour-3/?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_campaign=mornings-with-brian-haldane-7-6-21-hour-3](https://talk1073.com/2021/07/06/mornings-with-brian-haldane-7-6-21-hour-3/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=mornings-with-brian-haldane-7-6-21-hour-3)

### **Governor John Bel Edwards**

<https://gov.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/newsroom/detail/3251>