

Special Schools and Commissions

Louisiana Special Education Center

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Report Highlights

Why We Conducted This Audit

We conducted this audit to determine whether the Louisiana Special Education Center's (LSEC) activities align with its mission as a special education school. We also identified opportunities for coordination between LSEC and the Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) within the Department of Health and Hospitals, which serves a similar population.

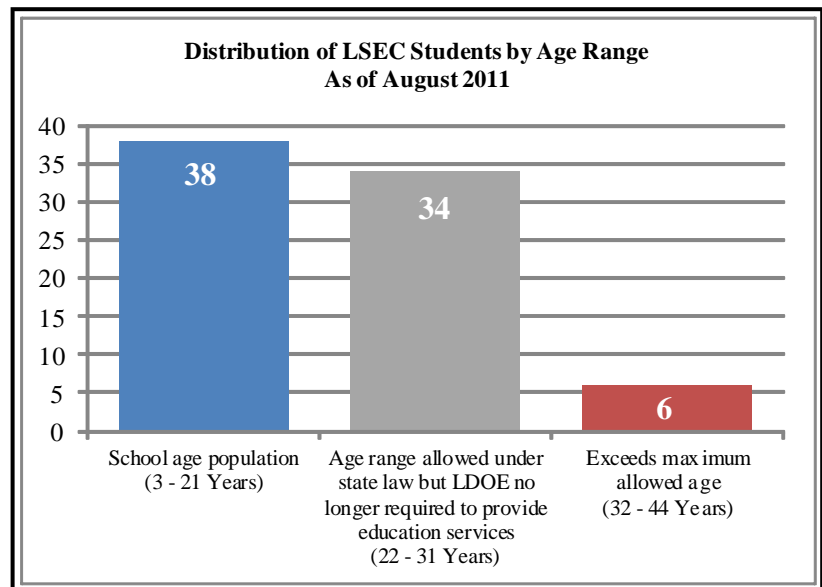
LSEC Mission:

To provide special education programs and related services to developmentally delayed, mentally disabled, and severely orthopedically challenged students with the goal of maximizing each student's potential toward the successful integration into mainstream society.

What We Found

While LSEC conducts some activities that align with its mission as a special education school, it conducts other activities that do not. Specifically,

- LSEC provides services to 40 (51.3%) students that are 22 years of age or older. According to state law, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is no longer required to provide them with special education services.
- Since 2006, LSEC has been operating a residential group home on its school campus for former students. Operating a residential group home is outside LSEC's mission.



In addition, we identified two areas of potential coordination that would assist LSEC in returning to its mission as a special education school and help ensure its compliance with federal integration mandates:

- LSEC should coordinate with OCDD in the development of a comprehensive transition process that identifies long-term placement options for its students after exiting LDOE's educational services.
- LSEC should coordinate with OCDD to expand the use of best practice assessment tools, such as the Supports Intensity Scale and Louisiana PLUS, in evaluating each of its student's supports needs and ability to transition into a community setting.

View the full report at la.la.gov.

For more information contact Nicole Edmonson, Director of Performance Audit Services, at 225-339-3800.