

CHAPTER 2013-84

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 461

An act relating to deaf and hard-of-hearing students; amending s. 1003.55, F.S.; requiring the Department of Education to develop a model communication plan to be used in the development of an individual education plan for deaf or hard-of-hearing students; requiring the department to disseminate the model to each school district and provide technical assistance; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (6) is added to section 1003.55, Florida Statutes, to read:

1003.55 Instructional programs for blind or visually impaired students and deaf or hard-of-hearing students.—

(6)(a) In developing an individual education plan for a deaf or hard-of-hearing student, the individual education plan team must consider the student's language and communication needs, opportunities for direct communication with peers and professional personnel in the student's language and communication mode, and the student's academic level and full range of needs, including opportunities for direct instruction in the student's language and communication mode.

(b) The Department of Education, in coordination with the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind and with input from education stakeholders, including representatives of the auditory oral community, shall develop a model communication plan which shall be used during the development of a student's individual education plan. The model shall be adopted in rule by the State Board of Education and made available online to all school districts no later than December 31, 2013. The department shall provide technical assistance for using the model communication plan.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.

Approved by the Governor May 30, 2013.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 30, 2013.