

CHAPTER 2016-227

House Bill No. 585

An act relating to instruction for homebound and hospitalized students; amending s. 1003.57, F.S.; requiring school districts to provide instruction to homebound or hospitalized students; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules for student eligibility, methods of providing instruction to homebound or hospitalized students, and the initiation of services; requiring certain school districts to enter into an agreement with certain children's specialty hospitals to establish certain processes and timelines relating to the instruction of homebound or hospitalized students; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 1003.57, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.57 Exceptional students instruction.—

(1)

(b) Each district school board shall provide for an appropriate program of special instruction, facilities, and services for exceptional students as prescribed by the State Board of Education as acceptable. Each district program must, including provisions that:

1. ~~The district school board~~ Provide the necessary professional services for diagnosis and evaluation of exceptional students. At least once every 3 years, the district school board must submit to the department its proposed procedures for the provision of special instruction and services for exceptional students.

2. ~~The district school board~~ Provide the special instruction, classes, and services, either within the district school system, in cooperation with other district school systems, or through contractual arrangements with approved private schools or community facilities that meet standards established by the commissioner.

3. ~~The district school board~~ Annually provide information describing the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind and all other programs and methods of instruction available to the parent of a sensory-impaired student.

4. Provide instruction to homebound or hospitalized students in accordance with this section and rules adopted by the state board, which must establish, at a minimum, the following:

a. Criteria for the eligibility of K-12 homebound or hospitalized students for specially designed instruction.

b. Procedures for determining student eligibility.

c. A list of appropriate methods for providing instruction to homebound or hospitalized students.

d. Requirements for providing instructional services for a homebound or hospitalized student once the student is determined to be eligible. Eligible students receiving treatment in a children's specialty hospital licensed under part I of chapter 395 must be provided educational instruction from the school district in which the hospital is located until the school district in which the hospital is located enters into an agreement with the school district in which the student resides. The department shall develop a standard agreement for use by school districts to provide seamless educational instruction to students who transition between school districts while receiving treatment in the children's specialty hospital.

No later than August 15, 2016, each school district in which a children's specialty hospital licensed under part I of chapter 395 is located shall enter into an agreement with the hospital which establishes a process by which the hospital must notify the school district of students who may be eligible for instruction consistent with this subparagraph and the timelines for determining student eligibility and providing educational instruction to eligible students ~~The district school board, once every 3 years, submit to the department its proposed procedures for the provision of special instruction and services for exceptional students.~~

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.

Approved by the Governor April 14, 2016.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 14, 2016.