



HB 1001

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to students with disabilities; providing  
3 for creation of an Interagency Cooperative Agreement for  
4 the Transition of Students with Disabilities; providing  
5 principles on which the agreement shall be based;  
6 providing components of the agreement related to the  
7 provision of state-of-the-art transition services for  
8 students with disabilities; providing for an annual  
9 report; providing an effective date.

10  
11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

12  
13 Section 1. The following agencies shall join to create an  
14 Interagency Cooperative Agreement for the Transition of Students  
15 with Disabilities: the Department of Education representing the  
16 Bureau of Instructional Support and Community Services, the  
17 Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Division of Blind  
18 Services, and the Office of Workforce and Economic Development;  
19 the Department of Children and Family Services representing the  
20 Developmental Disabilities Program Office and the Mental Health  
21 Program Office; and the Department of Health representing  
22 Children's Medical Services. The agreement shall provide a  
23 framework for a coordinated process and effort among the  
24 specified agencies so that supports and services can be provided  
25 to individuals with disabilities in an efficient manner that  
26 enhances the pursuit of a vocation or gainful employment,  
27 postsecondary opportunities, and the quality of life for each  
28 participant.

29 (1) The cooperative agreement shall be based on the  
30 following principles:



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31 (a) Provision of supports and services must be based on  
32 informed choice, valued community roles, community employment  
33 opportunities, and awareness of the value that every person can  
34 contribute to society and his or her community regardless of the  
35 severity of the disability.

36 (b) Cooperation, collaboration, and communication will  
37 lead to better coordinated supports and services for individuals  
38 with disabilities.

39 (c) Clearly defined roles and responsibilities of each  
40 agency that are reviewed and updated annually will lead to  
41 increased communication, increased quality of programs, and  
42 improved efficiency in the delivery of services for individuals  
43 with disabilities.

44 (2) The cooperative agreement shall address, at a minimum,  
45 the following related to the provision of state-of-the-art  
46 transition services for students with disabilities:

47 (a) A unified plan for policy and budget development and  
48 implementation at state and local levels.

49 (b) A unified plan for training and technical assistance  
50 to local agencies concerning each agency's eligibility, scope of  
51 services, opportunities for collaboration, and best practices,  
52 including the Department of Education self-determination IEP  
53 initiative.

54 (c) Coordinated outreach and technical assistance to  
55 families and students with disabilities concerning quality  
56 transition planning, availability of services, and agencies'  
57 eligibility requirements.

58 (d) Provision of assistive technology devices and services  
59 and coordination of continuation and transfer of assistive  
60 technology devices and services for transitioning students from



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61 middle school to high school to postsecondary education, into  
62 the community, or into gainful employment.

63 (e) Provision that assistive technology devices and  
64 services shall be available to students during and after the  
65 school day, for extended school year periods, for  
66 extracurricular activities, and at home for homework and  
67 activities of daily living and within the community, including,  
68 but not limited to, recreational activities, periods during  
69 which there is no structured school schedule, and employment.

70 (f) Provision for enforcement of the cooperative agreement  
71 that will ensure successful implementation at the state and  
72 local levels.

73 (g) Provision of education with timely and appropriate  
74 services to students with disabilities in which the Department  
75 of Education, the public school districts, and the public  
76 schools comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education  
77 Act, 20 U.S.C. ss. 1401(30) and 1414 (d)(1)(A)(vii)(II), and the  
78 Americans with Disabilities Act, Title II, C.F.R. ss. 35.104-  
79 35.141.

80 (h) Provision of speech and/or language therapy if such  
81 therapy is required for a student to benefit from special  
82 education.

83 (i) Provision of occupational and/or physical therapy if  
84 such therapy is required for a student to benefit from special  
85 education.

86 (j) Provision that the determination of eligibility, need,  
87 frequency, nature, or duration of therapy pursuant to paragraph  
88 (h) or paragraph (i) may not be made by using cognitive ability  
89 or developmental delay or disability as a disqualifier for such  
90 services.



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91           (3) The cooperative agreement shall be created and  
92           submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the  
93           Speaker of the House of Representatives by October 1, 2003. An  
94           annual report from that day forward shall be submitted to the  
95           Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the  
96           House of Representatives which will provide information on the  
97           status of development and implementation of the agreement at the  
98           state and local levels and an assessment of the impact on  
99           students with disabilities including, but not limited to, trends  
100           in the number of students accessing vocational rehabilitation  
101           services; post-transition services on an individual longitudinal  
102           data analysis focused upon gainful employment or postsecondary  
103           settings; and examination of real and perceived barriers to  
104           graduation with a standard diploma.

105           Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.