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576-04161-13

Proposed Committee Substitute by the Committee on Appropriations  
(Appropriations Subcommittee on Education)

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to deaf and hard-of-hearing students;  
amending s. 1003.55, F.S.; requiring that a student's  
language and communication needs, including certain  
opportunities, be considered in the development of an  
individual education plan for a deaf or hard-of-  
hearing student; 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 communication plan  
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



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28 in the student's language and communication mode.

29 (b) The Department of Education, in coordination with the  
30 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind and with input from  
31 education stakeholders, including representatives of the  
32 auditory-oral community, shall develop a model communication  
33 plan that shall be used during the development of a student's  
34 individual education plan. The model communication plan shall be  
35 adopted in rule by the State Board of Education and made  
36 available online to all school districts no later than December  
37 31, 2013. The department shall provide technical assistance for  
38 using the model communication plan.

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