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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
04/20/2021	.	
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The Committee on Appropriations (Taddeo) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause  
and insert:

Section 1. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 1003.5716,  
Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1003.5716 Transition to postsecondary education and career  
opportunities.—All students with disabilities who are 3 years of  
age to 21 years of age have the right to a free, appropriate  
public education. As used in this section, the term "IEP" means



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11 individual education plan.

12 (1) To ensure quality planning for a successful transition  
13 of a student with a disability to postsecondary education and  
14 career opportunities, during the student's 7th grade year or  
15 when the student attains the age of 12, whichever occurs first,  
16 an IEP team shall begin the process of, and develop an IEP for,  
17 identifying the need for transition services before the student  
18 with a disability enters high school or attains the age of 14  
19 years, whichever occurs first, in order for his or her  
20 postsecondary goals and career goals to be identified. The plan  
21 must be operational and in place to begin implementation on the  
22 first day of the student's first year in high school ~~when he or~~  
23 ~~she attains the age of 16 years.~~ This process must include, but  
24 is not limited to:

25 (a) Consideration of the student's need for instruction in  
26 the area of self-determination and self-advocacy to assist the  
27 student's active and effective participation in an IEP meeting;  
28 ~~and~~

29 (b) Preparation for the student to graduate from high  
30 school with a standard high school diploma pursuant to s.  
31 1003.4282 with a Scholar designation unless the parent chooses a  
32 Merit designation; and

33 (c) Provision of the information to the student and his or  
34 her parent of the school district's high school-level transition  
35 services, career and technical education, and collegiate  
36 programs available to students with disabilities and how to  
37 access such programs. Information shall also be provided on  
38 school-based transition programs and programs and services  
39 available through Florida's Center for Students with Unique



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40 Abilities, the Florida Centers for Independent Living, the  
41 Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Agency for Persons  
42 with Disabilities, and the Division of Blind Services. Referral  
43 forms, links, and technical support contacts for these services  
44 must be provided to students and parents at IEP meetings.

45 (2) Beginning not later than the first IEP to be in effect  
46 when the student enters high school, attains the age of 14 16,  
47 or when younger if determined appropriate by the parent and the  
48 IEP team, whichever occurs first, the IEP must include the  
49 following statements that must be updated annually:

50 (a) A statement of intent to pursue a standard high school  
51 diploma and a Scholar or Merit designation, pursuant to s.  
52 1003.4285, as determined by the parent.

53 1. The statement must document discussion of the process  
54 for a student with a disability who meets the requirements for a  
55 standard high school diploma to defer the receipt of such  
56 diploma pursuant to s. 1003.4282(10)(c).

57 2. For the IEP in effect at the beginning of the school  
58 year the student is expected to graduate, the statement must  
59 include a signed statement by the parent or guardian, or the  
60 student if the student has reached the age of majority and  
61 rights have transferred to the student, that he or she  
62 understands the process for deferment and identifying if the  
63 student will defer the receipt of his or her standard high  
64 school diploma.

65 (b) A statement of intent to receive a standard high school  
66 diploma before the student attains the age of 22 and a  
67 description of how the student will fully meet the requirements  
68 in s. 1003.4282, including, but not limited to, a portfolio



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69 pursuant to s. 1003.4282(10)(b) which meets the criteria  
70 specified in State Board of Education rule. The IEP must also  
71 specify the outcomes and additional benefits expected by the  
72 parent and the IEP team at the time of the student's graduation.

73 (c) A statement of appropriate measurable long-term  
74 postsecondary education and career goals based upon age-  
75 appropriate transition assessments related to training,  
76 education, employment, and, if appropriate, independent living  
77 skills and the transition services, including preemployment  
78 transition services and courses of study needed to assist the  
79 student in reaching those goals.

80 Section 2. The Department of Education, in conjunction with  
81 the Project 10: Transition Education Network, shall conduct a  
82 review of existing transition services and programs for students  
83 with disabilities to establish uniform best practices for such  
84 programs to deliver appropriate employment, pre-employment, and  
85 independent living skills education to students enrolled in such  
86 transition programs. The department must establish and publish  
87 on its website such uniform best practices no later than July 1,  
88 2022.

89 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.

90  
91 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

92 And the title is amended as follows:

93 Delete everything before the enacting clause  
94 and insert:

95 A bill to be entitled  
96 An act relating to individual education plan  
97 requirements for students with disabilities; amending



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98 s. 1003.5716, F.S.; revising the timeline for the  
99 development and implementation of an individual  
100 education plan (IEP) for transition services for a  
101 student with disabilities to a postsecondary education  
102 and career opportunities; revising the requirements  
103 for an IEP for the transitions to a postsecondary  
104 education and career opportunities; requiring certain  
105 information to be provided at IEP meetings; revising  
106 when a certain statement of intent must be included in  
107 the IEP; providing requirements for such statement;  
108 requiring a specified party to provide a signed  
109 statement relating to the deferment of a standard high  
110 school diploma; requiring the Department of Education  
111 to conduct a review of specified services and  
112 programs; requiring the department to establish and  
113 publish on its website uniform best practices for such  
114 services and programs by a specified date; providing  
115 an effective date.