

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to individual education plans;
3 amending s. 1003.57, F.S.; requiring a school district
4 to complete an initial evaluation to determine if a
5 student is eligible for an individualized education
6 plan (IEP) within a specified timeframe; requiring an
7 IEP team meeting to be convened within a specified
8 timeframe; requiring specified information to be
9 included in a student's educational records; requiring
10 certain school personnel to take specified actions if
11 a related service identified in a student's IEP is not
12 provided; providing that a parent has the right to
13 access, upon request, service logs within a specified
14 timeframe; requiring the IEP team to inform parents of
15 such right; requiring each school district to provide
16 an individualized orientation to the parent of a
17 student newly identified to be eligible for
18 exceptional student education services; requiring the
19 school district to obtain a signed acknowledgement
20 from each parent; providing requirements for the
21 orientation and acknowledgement; requiring school
22 districts to notify parents of available refresher
23 orientations each year; requiring that certain
24 information be retained in a student's education
25 records; amending s. 1003.576, F.S.; requiring school

26 districts to develop standardized services logs for
27 the provisions of specified services for use by
28 specified persons; providing an effective date.

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

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32 **Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section**
33 **1003.57, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

34 1003.57 Exceptional students instruction.—

35 (1)

36 (c)1. A student may not be given special instruction or
37 services as an exceptional student until after he or she has
38 been properly evaluated and found eligible as an exceptional
39 student in the manner prescribed by rules of the State Board of
40 Education.

41 2. In accordance with rules of the State Board of
42 Education, a school district must complete an initial evaluation
43 to determine whether a student is eligible for an individual
44 education plan (IEP) within 60 calendar days after receiving
45 parental consent to perform such evaluation. The school district
46 must convene an IEP team meeting within 30 calendar days after
47 eligibility is determined. The notification and written plan
48 must be retained in the student's educational record.

49 3. The parent of an exceptional student evaluated and
50 found eligible or ineligible shall be notified of each such

51 evaluation and determination. Such notice shall contain a
52 statement informing the parent that he or she is entitled to a
53 due process hearing on the identification, evaluation, and
54 eligibility determination, or lack thereof. Such hearings are
55 exempt from ss. 120.569, 120.57, and 286.011, except to the
56 extent that the State Board of Education adopts rules
57 establishing other procedures. Any records created as a result
58 of such hearings are confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1).
59 The hearing must be conducted by an administrative law judge
60 from the Division of Administrative Hearings pursuant to a
61 contract between the Department of Education and the Division of
62 Administrative Hearings. The decision of the administrative law
63 judge is final, except that any party aggrieved by the finding
64 and decision rendered by the administrative law judge has the
65 right to bring a civil action in the state circuit court. In
66 such an action, the court shall receive the records of the
67 administrative hearing and shall hear additional evidence at the
68 request of either party. In the alternative, in hearings
69 conducted on behalf of a student who is identified as gifted,
70 any party aggrieved by the finding and decision rendered by the
71 administrative law judge has the right to request a review of
72 the administrative law judge's order by the district court of
73 appeal as provided in s. 120.68.

74 4. If a related service identified in a student's IEP is
75 not provided as scheduled, the school administrator or staffing

76 specialist must notify the parent in writing within 5 school
77 days, explain the reason the service was not provided, and
78 provide a written plan for make-up services.

79 5. A parent has the right to access, upon request, all
80 service logs within 15 school days after such service is
81 provided. The IEP Team must inform parents of this right at each
82 IEP meeting.

83 6. Each school district shall provide an individualized
84 orientation to the parent of a student newly identified as
85 eligible for exceptional student education services. The school
86 district must obtain a signed acknowledgment from the parent
87 confirming that the orientation was provided in a format the
88 parent understands. Each school district shall notify parents
89 when refresher orientations are available each year. The
90 acknowledgment form must be retained in the student's education
91 records. The orientation must include all of the following:

- 92 a. An overview of procedural safeguards.
93 b. Parental rights and responsibilities.
94 c. Instructions on accessing and reviewing service logs.
95 d. Instructions on filing complaints with the school
96 district and the Department of Education.

97 **Section 2. Section 1003.576, Florida Statutes, is amended**
98 **to read:**

99 1003.576 Individual education plans for exceptional
100 students.—

101 (1) The Department of Education must develop and have an
102 operating electronic individual education plan (IEP) ~~IEP~~ system
103 in place for statewide use. The statewide system shall be
104 developed collaboratively with school districts and must include
105 input from school districts currently developing or operating
106 electronic IEP systems.

107 (2) Each school district must develop a standardized
108 service log, which includes progress notes, for the provision of
109 related services as identified in the student's IEP, to be used
110 by school staff and service providers.

111 **Section 3.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.