

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:  
31

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 school or service provider is unable to provide a  
75 related service identified in a student's IEP as scheduled, the

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

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

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

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

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

100 1003.576 Individual education plans for exceptional

101 students.—

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

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

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