

By Senator Harrell

31-00334-26

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to individual education plans;  
amending s. 1003.5716, F.S.; requiring a school  
district to complete an evaluation to determine if a  
student is eligible for an individualized education  
plan (IEP) within a specified timeframe; requiring an  
IEP team meeting to be convened within a specified  
timeframe; requiring a school district to take  
specified actions if a related service identified in a  
student's IEP is not provided; providing that a parent  
or guardian has the right to request provider logs or  
notes within a specified timeframe; requiring the  
school district to inform parents of such right;  
creating s. 1003.5718, F.S.; requiring each school  
district to provide an individualized orientation to  
each parent or guardian of a student newly identified  
to be eligible for exceptional student education  
services; providing requirements for the orientation;  
requiring the school district to obtain a signed  
acknowledgement from each parent or guardian;  
requiring that annual refresher orientations be  
offered and documented; requiring that certain  
information be retained in a student's education  
records; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (5) is added to section 1003.5716,  
Florida Statutes, to read:

31-00334-26

202672\_\_

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 individual education plan.

(5) (a) Within 60 calendar days after receiving parental consent, a school district must complete an initial evaluation to determine whether a student is eligible for an IEP. The school district must convene an IEP team meeting within 30 calendar days after eligibility is determined.

(b) If a related service identified in a student’s IEP is not provided as scheduled, the school district must notify the parent or guardian in writing within 5 school days, explain the reason the service was not provided, and provide a written plan for make-up services.

(c) A parent or guardian has the right to access, upon request, all service provider logs or progress notes within 15 school days after such service is provided. The school district must inform parents of this right at each IEP meeting.

Section 2. Section 1003.5718, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1003.5718 Parental education, enforcement, and IEP transition requirements.—

(1) Each school district shall provide an individualized orientation to the parent or guardian of a student newly identified to be eligible for exceptional student education services. The orientation must include all of the following:

(a) An overview of procedural safeguards.

(b) Parental rights and responsibilities.

31-00334-26

202672\_\_

59        (c) Instructions on accessing and reviewing service logs.

60        (d) Instructions on filing complaints with the Department  
61 of Education.

62        (2) The school district must obtain a signed acknowledgment  
63 from the parent or guardian confirming receipt of the  
64 orientation in a format the parent understands. Annual refresher  
65 orientations must be offered and documented. All acknowledgment  
66 forms must be retained in the student's education records.

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