

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to deaf and hard-of-hearing students;
 3 amending s. 1003.55, F.S.; requiring the Department of
 4 Education to develop a model communication plan to be
 5 used in the development of an individual education
 6 plan for deaf or hard-of-hearing students; requiring
 7 the department to disseminate the model to each school
 8 district and provide technical assistance; providing
 9 an effective date.

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

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13 Section 1. Subsection (6) is added to section 1003.55,
 14 Florida Statutes, to read:

15 1003.55 Instructional programs for blind or visually
 16 impaired students and deaf or hard-of-hearing students.—

17 (6) (a) In developing an individual education plan for a
 18 deaf or hard-of-hearing student, the individual education plan
 19 team must consider the student's language and communication
 20 needs, opportunities for direct communication with peers and
 21 professional personnel in the student's language and
 22 communication mode, and the student's academic level and full
 23 range of needs, including opportunities for direct instruction
 24 in the student's language and communication mode.

25 (b) The Department of Education, in coordination with the
 26 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind and with input from
 27 education stakeholders, shall develop a model communication plan
 28 which shall be used during the development of a student's

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29 individual education plan. The model shall be adopted in rule by
30 the State Board of Education and made available online to all
31 school districts no later than December 31, 2013. The department
32 shall provide technical assistance for using the model
33 communication plan.

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