



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, including representatives of the  
 28 auditory oral community, shall develop a model communication



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

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