A bill to be entitled
An act relating to deaf and hard-of-hearing students;
amending s. 1003.55, F.S.; requiring that a student’s
language and communication needs, including certain
opportunities, be considered in the development of an
individual education plan for a deaf or hard-of-
hearing student; requiring the Department of Education
to develop a model communication plan to be used in
the development of an individual education plan for
deaf or hard-of-hearing students; requiring the
department to disseminate the model communication plan
to each school district and provide technical
assistance; providing an effective date.

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

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

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

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

(b) The Department of Education, in coordination with the
Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind and with input from education stakeholders, including representatives of the auditory-oral community, shall develop a model communication plan that shall be used during the development of a student’s individual education plan. The model communication plan shall be adopted in rule by the State Board of Education and made available online to all school districts no later than December 31, 2013. The department shall provide technical assistance for using the model communication plan.

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