

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Bill No. HB 615 (2026)

Amendment No. 1

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED  (Y/N)

ADOPTED AS AMENDED  (Y/N)

ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION  (Y/N)

FAILED TO ADOPT  (Y/N)

WITHDRAWN  (Y/N)

OTHER

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1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Student Academic Success  
2 Subcommittee

3 Representative Tendrich offered the following:

5 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

6 Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:

7 **Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section**

8 **1003.57, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

9 1003.57 Exceptional students instruction.—

10 (1)

11 (c)1. A student may not be given special instruction or  
12 services as an exceptional student until after he or she has  
13 been properly evaluated and found eligible as an exceptional  
14 student in the manner prescribed by rules of the State Board of  
15 Education.

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16        2. In accordance with rules of the State Board of  
17 Education, a school district must complete an initial evaluation  
18 to determine whether a student is eligible for an individual  
19 education plan (IEP) within 60 calendar days after receiving  
20 parental consent to perform such evaluation. The school district  
21 must convene an IEP team meeting within 30 calendar days after  
22 eligibility is determined. The notification and written plan  
23 must be retained in the student's educational record.

24        3. The parent of an exceptional student evaluated and  
25 found eligible or ineligible shall be notified of each such  
26 evaluation and determination. Such notice shall contain a  
27 statement informing the parent that he or she is entitled to a  
28 due process hearing on the identification, evaluation, and  
29 eligibility determination, or lack thereof. Such hearings are  
30 exempt from ss. 120.569, 120.57, and 286.011, except to the  
31 extent that the State Board of Education adopts rules  
32 establishing other procedures. Any records created as a result  
33 of such hearings are confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1).  
34 The hearing must be conducted by an administrative law judge  
35 from the Division of Administrative Hearings pursuant to a  
36 contract between the Department of Education and the Division of  
37 Administrative Hearings. The decision of the administrative law  
38 judge is final, except that any party aggrieved by the finding  
39 and decision rendered by the administrative law judge has the  
40 right to bring a civil action in the state circuit court. In

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such an action, the court shall receive the records of the administrative hearing and shall hear additional evidence at the request of either party. In the alternative, in hearings conducted on behalf of a student who is identified as gifted, any party aggrieved by the finding and decision rendered by the administrative law judge has the right to request a review of the administrative law judge's order by the district court of appeal as provided in s. 120.68.

4. If a related service identified in a student's IEP is not provided as scheduled, the school administrator or staffing specialist must notify the parent in writing within 5 school days, explain the reason the service was not provided, and provide a written plan for make-up services.

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

6. Each school district shall provide an individualized orientation to the parent of a student newly identified as eligible for exceptional student education services. The school district must obtain a signed acknowledgment from the parent confirming that the orientation was provided in a format the parent understands. Each school district shall notify parents when refresher orientations are available each year. The

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65 acknowledgment form must be retained in the student's education  
66 records. The orientation must include all of the following:

- 67 a. An overview of procedural safeguards.
- 68 b. Parental rights and responsibilities.
- 69 c. Instructions on accessing and reviewing service logs.
- 70 d. Instructions on filing complaints with the school

71 district and the Department of Education.

72 **Section 2. Section 1003.576, Florida Statutes, is amended**  
73 **to read:**

74 1003.576 Individual education plans for exceptional  
75 students.—

76 (1) The Department of Education must develop and have an  
77 operating electronic individual education plan (IEP) IEP system  
78 in place for statewide use. The statewide system shall be  
79 developed collaboratively with school districts and must include  
80 input from school districts currently developing or operating  
81 electronic IEP systems.

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

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

87  
88 -----  
89 **T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

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90 Remove everything before the enacting clause and insert:

91                   A bill to be entitled

92                   An act relating to individual education plans;

93                   amending s. 1003.57, F.S.; requiring a school district

94                   to complete an initial evaluation to determine if a

95                   student is eligible for an individualized education

96                   plan (IEP) within a specified timeframe; requiring an

97                   IEP team meeting to be convened within a specified

98                   timeframe; requiring specified information to be

99                   included in student's educational records; requiring a

100                  school district to take specified actions if a related

101                  service identified in a student's IEP is not provided;

102                  providing that a parent or guardian has the right to

103                  access, upon request, service logs within a specified

104                  timeframe; requiring the school district to inform

105                  parents of such right; requiring each school district

106                  to provide an individualized orientation to each

107                  parent of a student newly identified to be eligible

108                  for exceptional student education services; requiring

109                  the school district to obtain a signed acknowledgement

110                  from each parent; providing requirements for the

111                  orientation and acknowledgement; requiring school

112                  districts to notify parents of available refresher

113                  orientations each year; requiring that certain

114                  information be retained in a student's education

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115 records; amending s. 1003.576, F.S.; requiring school  
116 districts to develop standardized services logs for  
117 the provisions of specified services for use by  
118 specified persons; providing an effective date.