

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WITHDRAWN \_\_\_\_\_ (Y/N)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 \_\_\_\_\_

Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Student Academic Success  
Subcommittee

Representative Tendrich offered the following:

**Amendment (with title amendment)**

Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:

**Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section  
1003.57, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

1003.57 Exceptional students instruction.—

(1)

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

Amendment No. 1

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

## Amendment No. 1

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

Amendment No. 1

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

- a. An overview of procedural safeguards.
- b. Parental rights and responsibilities.
- c. Instructions on accessing and reviewing service logs.
- d. Instructions on filing complaints with the school district and the Department of Education.

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

1003.576 Individual education plans for exceptional students.—

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

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

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

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**T I T L E   A M E N D M E N T**

## Amendment No. 1

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

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Bill No. HB 615 (2026)

Amendment No. 1

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.