

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** School District Superintendents

**FROM:** Pam Stewart

**DATE:** August 16, 2013

**SUBJECT: 2013 Legislation Committee Substitute for House Bill 461**

### Contact Information

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850-245-0475

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**DPS: 2013-101**

The 2013 Florida Legislature passed Committee Substitute for House Bill 461 (CS/HB 461): an act relating to deaf and hard of hearing students. This bill was signed by the governor and became effective on July 1, 2013. The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) must develop a model communication plan to be used in the development of an individual educational plan (IEP) for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. The enrolled bill text is available at <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2013/0461>.

This Legislation added subsection (6) to Section 1003.55, Florida Statutes, Instructional programs for blind or visually impaired students and deaf or hard of hearing students, to require the following.

- When developing an IEP for students who are deaf or hard of hearing, the 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
  - academic level and full range of needs, including opportunities for direct instruction in the student's language and communication mode.
- FDOE, 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, must develop a model communication plan which shall be used during the development of an IEP for a student who is deaf or hard of hearing.

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- The model communication plan must be adopted in rule by the State Board of Education and made available to districts online by December 31, 2013
- FDOE will provide technical assistance to school districts regarding the use of the model communication plan.

The draft model communication plan and an implementation survey will be sent to school districts at the start of the 2013-14 school year. School districts will have an opportunity to evaluate the plan and provide feedback to the development team for further revisions.

It is anticipated that a rule workshop will be announced in August with proposed presentation of the rule to the State Board of Education for final approval in November. District training regarding the use of the model communication plan will be scheduled subsequent to rule adoption.

If you have questions regarding the implementation of this legislation, please contact Leanne Grillot, program specialist, at 850-245-0478 or via email at [leanne.grillot@fldoe.org](mailto:leanne.grillot@fldoe.org).

PS/lg

cc: Exceptional Student Education Directors  
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