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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Jacob Oliva

DATE: August 6, 2021

SUBJECT: **New Responsibilities and Considerations for School Districts as a Result of House Bill (HB) 173**

Contact Information:

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DPS: 2021-91

The 2021 Florida Legislature passed, and Governor DeSantis signed into law, [HB 173](#). The purpose of this memorandum is to inform school districts of the new responsibilities and considerations of this bill. Except as otherwise expressed, this law took effect July 1, 2021.

HB 173

Individual Education Plan (IEP) Requirements for Students with Disabilities

- Requires the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) to review existing transition services and programs for students with disabilities.
- Requires FDOE to establish and publish uniform best practices to support transition on the FDOE website by July 1, 2022.
- Will require districts to:
 - Work with FDOE and Project 10: Transition Education Network to complete a review of existing transition services and programs for students with disabilities;
 - Have IEP teams plan for the transition process for students with disabilities during the student's seventh grade year or when the student attains the age of 12, whichever occurs first;
 - Include transition program, postsecondary education and career opportunity information in the transition process;
 - Have an IEP in place and implemented on the first day of the student's first year in high school or when the student attains the age of 14, whichever occurs first; and
 - Document the discussion of the process for deferral and whether the student will defer the receipt of the diploma, as required by sections [1003.5716](#) and [1003.4282](#), Florida Statutes.

For questions regarding students with disabilities, please contact Victoria Gaitanis at 850-245-0475 or Victoria.Gaitanis@fldoe.org.

JO/vg

cc: School District Student Services Directors
School District Exceptional Student Education Directors
School Principals

