

SENATE BILL 314

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CF HB 44

By: **Senators Ramirez, Guzzone, Madaleno, and Rosapepe**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2015

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Special Education – Translations of Individualized Education Programs or**
3 **Individualized Family Service Plans – Native Language**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the parents of a child with a disability to request the
5 translation into their native language of a completed individualized education
6 program or a completed individualized family service plan; requiring certain school
7 personnel to provide the parents with a certain translation of a completed
8 individualized education program or a completed individualized family service plan
9 within a certain time frame; defining certain terms; and generally relating to
10 individualized education programs and individualized family service plans.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Education
13 Section 8–405
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
17 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article – Education**

19 8–405.

20 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

21 (2) “Accessible copy” includes a copy of a document provided to an
22 individual in a format as defined in § 8–408 of this subtitle.

23 (3) “Extenuating circumstance” means:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (i) A death in the family;
- 2 (ii) A personal emergency;
- 3 (iii) A natural disaster; or
- 4 (iv) Any other similar situation defined by the Department.

5 **(4) “INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM” AND “INDIVIDUALIZED**
6 **FAMILY SERVICE PLAN” HAVE THE SAME MEANING AS PROVIDED IN THE FEDERAL**
7 **INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT.**

8 (b) (1) When a team of qualified professionals and the parents meet for the
9 purpose of discussing the identification, evaluation, educational program, or the provision
10 of a free appropriate public education of a child with a disability:

11 (i) The parents of the child shall be afforded the opportunity to
12 participate and shall be provided reasonable notice in advance of the meeting; and

13 (ii) Reasonable notice shall be at least 10 calendar days in advance
14 of the meeting, unless an expedited meeting is being conducted to:

15 1. Address disciplinary issues;

16 2. Determine the placement of the child with a disability not
17 currently receiving educational services; or

18 3. Meet other urgent needs of a child with a disability to
19 ensure the provision of a free appropriate public education.

20 (2) (i) At the initial evaluation meeting, the parents of the child shall
21 be provided, in plain language, a verbal and written explanation of the parents' rights and
22 responsibilities in the individualized education program process and a program procedural
23 safeguards notice.

24 (ii) The parents may request the information provided under
25 subparagraph (i) of this paragraph at any subsequent meeting.

26 (c) The individualized education program team shall determine, on at least an
27 annual basis, whether the child requires extended year services in order to ensure that the
28 child is not deprived of a free appropriate public education by virtue of the normal break in
29 the regular school year.

30 (d) (1) (i) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, and
31 subject to subparagraphs (ii) and (iii) of this paragraph, at least 5 business days before a
32 scheduled meeting of the individualized education program team or other multidisciplinary
33 education team for any purpose for a child with a disability, appropriate school personnel

1 shall provide the parents of the child with an accessible copy of each assessment, report,
2 data chart, draft individualized education program, or other document that either team
3 plans to discuss at the meeting.

4 (ii) Subject to subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, an assessment,
5 report, data chart, or other document prepared by a school psychologist or other medical
6 professional that either team plans to discuss at the meeting may be provided to the parents
7 of the child orally and in writing prior to the meeting.

8 (iii) The parents of a child may notify appropriate school personnel
9 that they do not want to receive the documents required to be provided under subparagraph
10 (i) of this paragraph.

11 (2) (i) Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, appropriate
12 school personnel are not required to comply with paragraph (1) of this subsection in the
13 event of an extenuating circumstance.

14 (ii) In the event of an extenuating circumstance, appropriate school
15 personnel who fail to comply with paragraph (1) of this subsection shall document the
16 extenuating circumstance and communicate that information to the parents of the child.

17 (e) (1) Not later than 5 business days after a scheduled meeting of the
18 individualized education program team or other multidisciplinary team for a child with a
19 disability, appropriate school personnel shall provide the parents of the child with a copy
20 of the completed individualized education program.

21 (2) If the individualized education program has not been completed by the
22 5th business day after the meeting, the parents shall be provided with the draft copy of the
23 individualized education program.

24 (3) The completed or draft individualized education program shall be
25 provided to the parents in an accessible format.

26 **(4) (I) THE PARENTS OF A CHILD WITH A COMPLETED**
27 **INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM OR A COMPLETED INDIVIDUALIZED FAMILY**
28 **SERVICE PLAN MAY REQUEST THE DOCUMENT TO BE TRANSLATED INTO THE**
29 **PARENTS' NATIVE LANGUAGE.**

30 **(II) IF A PARENT MAKES A REQUEST UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I)**
31 **OF THIS PARAGRAPH, APPROPRIATE SCHOOL PERSONNEL SHALL PROVIDE THE**
32 **PARENTS WITH THE TRANSLATED DOCUMENT WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF**
33 **THE REQUEST.**

34 (f) To fulfill the purposes of this section, school personnel may provide the
35 documents required under this section through:

- 1 (1) Electronic delivery;
- 2 (2) Home delivery with the student; or
- 3 (3) Any other reasonable and legal method of delivery.
- 4 (g) Failure to comply with this section does not constitute a substantive violation
5 of the requirement to provide a student with a free appropriate public education.
- 6 (h) The Department shall adopt:
- 7 (1) Regulations that define what information should be provided in the
8 verbal and written explanations of the parents' rights and responsibilities in the
9 individualized education program process; and
- 10 (2) Any other regulations necessary to carry out subsection (b)(2) of this
11 section.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
13 1, 2015.