

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Action Item

December 12, 2006

SUBJECT: Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-6.03013, Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students Who Are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

1001.02(1) and 1003.57(1)(e), Florida Statutes

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This rule provides specific requirements for school districts related to the identification of students with disabilities who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. This rule is proposed for amendment to reflect current knowledge in the field and to adopt language that is consistent with the federal law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. Chapter 33, and its implementing regulations.

The rule as amended requires that activities prior to referral and student evaluation must be conducted in accordance with Rule 6A-6.0331, FAC. References to evaluation procedures, the instructional program, supportive services, facilities, procedures to ensure proper functioning of hearing aids/amplification equipment, and continued eligibility were removed as they are to be included in the districts' *Policies and Procedures for the Provision of Specially Designed Instruction and Related Services for Exceptional Students* in accordance with Rule 6A-6.03411, FAC.

Programmatic changes include the clarification that hearing loss must interfere with progress in developmental skills or academic performance, social-emotional development, or linguistic/communicative skills in order to establish eligibility. The definition was revised to replace the reference to "communication, developmental skills, academic achievement, vocational-career skills, or social-emotional adjustment" with "performance in the educational environment." In addition, the use of Auditory Evoked Potentials as a method of determining hearing thresholds was added to the content of the rule as these tests are often more reliable measures for young children and children with multiple disabilities than pure tone audiometric evaluation.

Supporting Documentation Included: Rule 6A-6.03013, FAC., Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students Who Are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing

Facilitators/Presenters: Cheri Yecke, K-12 Chancellor/Mary Jane Tappen, K-12 Deputy Chancellor