

HB 656 -- PARENTAL CONSENT REQUIREMENTS FOR IEPs

SPONSOR: Byrnes

This bill requires public schools that serve students with an individualized education program (IEP) to implement parental consent procedures. Written or electronic parental consent must be obtained and maintained for initial placement, annual placement, or other revisions to a student's IEP as provided in the bill.

If the parents and local educational agency (LEA) only reach an agreement on certain IEP services or interim placement, the child's new IEP will only be implemented in the areas of agreement with the current services remaining unchanged unless the LEA follows procedures specified in the bill which include a due process complaint and hearing.

If a child is identified as eligible for special education services, the parents have the right to visit any program proposed for their child. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education must adopt a parental consent form, as specified in the bill, that each school district must provide to parents, and districts may not proceed with implementation of a student's IEP without the parental consent form completed except as provided in the bill.

These provisions are effective July 1, 2027.

This bill is similar to HCS HB 1663 (2024) and HB 1163 (2023).