

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Consent Item
March 27, 2018

SUBJECT: Approval of New Rule 6A.1.09515, Excused Absences for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Sections 1001.02(1), 1003.21(2)(b), Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This new rule will address excused absences for the treatment of autism spectrum disorder. During the 2017 Legislative Session, sections 1002.20, 1003.21, 1003.24, Florida Statutes (F.S.), were amended to require each school district, in accordance with the State Board of Education rule, to amend policies authorizing a parent to request and be granted permission for absence of a student from school for an appointment scheduled to receive a therapy service provided by a licensed health care practitioner or a behavior analyst certified pursuant to s. 393.17, F.S., for the treatment of autism spectrum disorder, including, but not limited to, applied behavioral analysis, speech therapy and occupational therapy.

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Supporting Documentation Included: Proposed Rule 6A.1.09515, F.A.C.

Facilitator/Presenter: Jacob Oliva, Executive Vice Chancellor, K-12 Public Schools

6A-1.09515 Excused Absences for Treatment of ~~Students with~~ Autism Spectrum Disorder

(1) Release time during the school day to participate in therapy services for the treatment of autism spectrum disorder. Each school district shall adopt policies authorizing a parent to request and be granted permission for absence of a student to receive therapy services for treatment of autism spectrum disorder to implement Section 1003.21(2)(b)2., F.S. The school district’s rules shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) Provisions establishing the procedures and time frames for parents to request excused absences for scheduled appointments for treatment of autism spectrum disorder.

(b) Provisions for establishing the school district’s requirements for verification of therapy provided by licensed health care practitioners or certified behavior analysts pursuant to Section 393.17, F.S., for the treatment of autism spectrum disorder.

(2) For purposes of this rule, a school district may accept documentation of excused absences from certified behavior analysts pursuant to Section 393.17, F.S.; speech-language pathologists licensed under Section 468.1185, F.S.; occupational therapists licensed under Part III of Chapter 468, F.S.; psychologists licensed under Chapter 490, F.S.; clinical social workers licensed under Chapter 491, F.S.; or other health care practitioners as defined in Section 456.001(4), F.S.

Rulemaking Authority 1001.02(1), 1003.21(2)(b) FS. Law Implemented 1002.20, 1003.21(2)(b), 1003.24 FS.

History–New.