

By Senator Calatayud

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to the detection of developmental delays and autism spectrum disorder; creating s. 381.993, F.S.; requiring the Department of Health, in collaboration with school districts throughout this state, to develop informational materials for the detection of developmental delays and autism spectrum disorder for parents and guardians of certain students; specifying requirements for such informational materials; amending s. 1002.53, F.S.; requiring early learning coalitions to notify parents and guardians of the availability of such informational materials; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 381.993, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

381.993 Developmental delays; autism spectrum disorder; detection.—

(1) The Department of Health, in collaboration with school districts throughout this state, shall develop informational materials for the detection of developmental delays and autism spectrum disorder for parents and guardians of students. The informational materials must be made available to each learning coalition, prekindergarten provider, school district, and charter school through the department's website.

(2) Within 90 days after July 1, 2026, the department shall develop the materials related to the detection of developmental

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30 delays and autism spectrum disorder and post the information on
31 its website. The department shall develop a standardized
32 methodology for each learning coalition, prekindergarten
33 provider, school district, and charter school for the
34 notification of the parents or guardians of voluntary
35 prekindergarten, kindergarten, first grade, and second grade
36 students by September 30, 2026, and annually thereafter, of the
37 availability of the developmental delay and autism spectrum
38 disorder detection materials.

39 (3) Information provided to parents and guardians must
40 include, but need not be limited to, all of the following:

41 (a) A description of developmental delays and a description
42 of autism spectrum disorder.

43 (b) A description of the signs associated with
44 developmental delays and autism spectrum disorder.

45 (c) A recommendation for a developmental screening for
46 students displaying signs associated with developmental delays
47 and autism spectrum disorder.

48 (d) Existing state resources for students identified as at
49 risk for developmental delays and autism spectrum disorder,
50 including, but not limited to, regional sites of the Center for
51 Autism and Related Disabilities and the Early Head Start
52 program.

53 Section 2. Subsection (5) of section 1002.53, Florida
54 Statutes, is amended to read:

55 1002.53 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program;
56 eligibility and enrollment.—

57 (5) The early learning coalition shall provide each parent
58 enrolling a child in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education

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Program with a profile of every private prekindergarten provider and public school delivering the program within the county where the child is being enrolled. The profiles must ~~shall~~ be provided to parents in a format prescribed by the department in accordance with s. 1002.92(3). The early learning coalition shall ~~must~~ also annually notify parents and guardians of the availability of informational materials for the early detection of Type 1 diabetes pursuant to s. 381.992 and for the detection of developmental delays and autism spectrum disorder pursuant to s. 381.993.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.