

# FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## BILL ANALYSIS

*This bill analysis was prepared by nonpartisan committee staff and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.*

**BILL #:** [CS/HB 1091](#)

**TITLE:** Dental Screenings For K-12 Students

**SPONSOR(S):** Skidmore

### Committee References

[Student Academic Success](#)

14 Y, 0 N, As CS

[Health Professions & Programs](#)

[Education & Employment](#)

## SUMMARY

### Effect of the Bill:

The bill defines a limited, noninvasive dental screening in the School Health Services Act, clarifies that the screening follows the existing written notice and parent exemption process used for specified school health services, and provides an exception to the written parental consent requirement for health care services to minors when the screening is provided through the school health services program.

### Fiscal or Economic Impact:

None

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## ANALYSIS

### **EFFECT OF THE BILL:**

The bill amends the School Health Services Act by defining “dental screening” as a limited, noninvasive visual inspection of the oral cavity to identify obvious signs of dental disease or abnormality. The bill provides that a dental screening does not include diagnosis or treatment, may not use instruments that penetrate tissue, and does not constitute a comprehensive dental examination. Additionally, the bill clarifies within the School Health Services Act that a dental screening under a school health services plan may be provided to a student after the written notice required by this paragraph and a reasonable opportunity for the parent or guardian to request such exemption in writing. (Section 1).

The bill requires district school boards that elect to provide a [preventive dental program](#) dental screening to do so in accordance with the School Health Services Act. (Section 2).

The bill provides an exemption to existing [parental rights](#) provisions requiring parental consent to allow a preventive dental program dental screening for a public school student after written notice to the student’s parent and a reasonable opportunity for the parent to deny consent or opt the student out of the screening. (Section 3).

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2026. (Section 4).

## RELEVANT INFORMATION

### **SUBJECT OVERVIEW:**

#### [Oral Health Need and School-Based Preventive Programs](#)

Statewide school-based oral health surveillance of Florida public-school students reflects measurable levels of untreated decay and treatment need. Among third grade students, 29.3 percent have untreated decay; 36.9 percent have at least one dental sealant; 27.8 percent have early dental treatment needs; and 1.7 percent have urgent

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**DATE:** 2/5/2026

dental treatment needs.<sup>1</sup> Among ninth grade students, 20.7 percent have untreated decay; 29.2 percent have at least one dental sealant; 18.6 percent have early dental treatment needs; and 2.7 percent have urgent dental treatment needs.<sup>2</sup>

County health departments administer school-based sealant programs that offer preventive dental services, which may include screenings or assessments, fluoride varnish, dental sealants, and referrals; 42 counties provide school-based services, with programs focusing on children at high risk of cavities and those less likely to access dental care.<sup>3</sup> National evidence reviews identify school-based dental sealant delivery programs as increasing sealant receipt and reducing tooth decay, with economic evidence indicating benefits can exceed costs when implemented in schools serving children at high risk for cavities.<sup>4</sup> Centers for Disease Control (CDC) materials similarly report that school sealant programs can reduce treatment costs (including reporting savings per sealed tooth) when targeted to children at high risk for tooth decay.<sup>5</sup>

### **School Health Services Program**

Each school health services plan developed jointly by the county health department and district school board is required to include a preventive dental program.<sup>6</sup> The plan includes a range of health services, including health appraisal, records review, nurse assessment, nutrition assessment, and health counseling, and screenings for vision, hearing, scoliosis, and growth and development.<sup>7</sup>

Current law provides the following definitions:

- “Screening” means presumptive identification of unknown or unrecognized diseases or defects by the application of tests that can be given with ease and rapidity to apparently healthy persons.<sup>8</sup>
- “Invasive screening” means any screening procedure in which the skin or any body orifice is penetrated.<sup>9</sup>

Participating nonpublic schools inform parents at the beginning of each school year that students will receive specified health services under the district health services plan, and a student is exempt from any of those services if the parent requests an exemption in writing. That notice provision is not construed to authorize invasive screening, and written parental consent is obtained before an invasive screening is performed.<sup>10</sup>

District schools inform parents at the beginning of each school year that students will receive specified health services under the district health services plan, and a student is exempt from any of those services if the parent requests an exemption in writing. That notice provision is not construed to authorize invasive screening, and written parental consent is obtained before an invasive screening is performed.<sup>11</sup>

### **Parental Rights and Consent for Health Care Services to Minors**

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<sup>1</sup> Florida Department of Health, *Oral Health Status of Florida's Third Grade Students, 2021–2022* (report), pp. 6 and 11, available at <https://www.astdd.org/www/docs/florida-3rd-grade-2021-2022.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Florida Department of Health, *Oral Health Status of Florida's Ninth Grade Students, 2025* (report), pp. 6 and 9, available at <https://www.floridahealth.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/oral-health-status-florida-ninth-grade-students-2025-1.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Florida Department of Health, *School-Based Sealant Programs*, <https://www.floridahealth.gov/individual-family-health/dental-health/school-based-sealant-programs/> (last visited Jan. 23, 2026).

<sup>4</sup> The Community Guide, *Dental Caries (Cavities): School-Based Dental Sealant Delivery Programs (findings summary and economic evidence)*, <https://www.thecommunityguide.org/findings/dental-caries-cavities-school-based-dental-sealant-delivery-programs.html> (last visited Jan. 23, 2026).

<sup>5</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Return on Investment: School Sealant Programs* (infographic text), <https://www.cdc.gov/oral-health/php/infographics/roi-school-sealant.html> (last visited Jan. 23, 2026).

<sup>6</sup> Section [381.0056\(4\)\(a\)5.](#), F.S.

<sup>7</sup> Section [381.0056\(4\)\(a\)1.-10.](#), F.S.

<sup>8</sup> Section [381.0056\(2\)\(f\)](#), F.S.

<sup>9</sup> Section [381.0056\(2\)\(c\)](#), F.S.

<sup>10</sup> Section [381.0056\(5\)\(g\)](#), F.S.

<sup>11</sup> Section [381.0056\(6\)\(e\)](#), F.S.

Parents retain the right to direct the education and care of their minor children and to make health care decisions for their minor children, unless otherwise prohibited by law.<sup>12</sup> Health care practitioners may not provide, solicit, or arrange to provide health care services or prescribe medicinal drugs to a minor child without first obtaining written parental consent, except as otherwise provided by law.<sup>13</sup>

### **District School Board Notice of School-Based Health Care Services**

Each school district notifies parents at the beginning of the school year of each health care service offered at the student's school and the option to withhold consent or decline any specific service in accordance with requirements for parental consent for health care services. Parental consent to a health care service does not waive the parent's right to access the student's educational or health records or to be notified about a change in the student's services or monitoring.<sup>14</sup>

### **BILL HISTORY**

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
<a href="#">Student Academic Success Subcommittee</a>	14 Y, 0 N, As CS	2/5/2026	Sanchez	Wolff
THE CHANGES ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relocated the dental screening definition and the notice and written exemption clarification to the School Health Services Act.</li> <li>• Conformed the district notice and parental consent provisions to reference the requirements of the School Health Services Act.</li> </ul>			
<a href="#">Health Professions &amp; Programs Subcommittee</a>				
<a href="#">Education &amp; Employment Committee</a>				

**THIS BILL ANALYSIS HAS BEEN UPDATED TO INCORPORATE ALL OF THE CHANGES DESCRIBED ABOVE.**

<sup>12</sup> Section [1014.04\(1\)\(a\) and \(e\), F.S.](#)

<sup>13</sup> Section [1014.06\(1\), F.S.](#)

<sup>14</sup> Section [1001.42\(8\)\(c\)5., F.S.](#)