

By Senator Harrell

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to coordinated screening and progress monitoring; amending s. 1008.25, F.S.; specifying requirements for a school district if a student exhibits characteristics of dyslexia or dyscalculia; providing circumstances under which a student is required to undergo further screening for dyslexia or dyscalculia; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (d) is added to subsection (4) of section 1008.25, Florida Statutes, and paragraph (a) of subsection (9) of that section is amended, to read:

1008.25 Public school student progression; student support; coordinated screening and progress monitoring; reporting requirements.—

(4) ASSESSMENT AND SUPPORT.—

(d) If the coordinated screening and progress monitoring system under subsection (9), or any district-approved screening instrument, identifies a student as exhibiting characteristics of dyslexia or dyscalculia, the school district shall:

1. Ensure that the student is covered by a plan under paragraph (b) which includes evidence-based interventions that are specific to the identified characteristics of dyslexia or dyscalculia and that are aligned, as appropriate, with the interventions required under subsection (5) for reading and subsection (6) for mathematics.

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30 2. Treat the screening result as reasonable suspicion that
31 the student may be a student with a disability for purposes of
32 s. 1003.57 and promptly seek parental consent to conduct an
33 initial evaluation consistent with state board rule and
34 applicable federal law.

35 3. Ensure that screening activities and intervention
36 procedures, including interventions required under this
37 subsection and subsections (5) and (6), occur concurrently with
38 the evaluation process and are not used to delay or deny an
39 appropriate evaluation.

40 (9) COORDINATED SCREENING AND PROGRESS MONITORING SYSTEM.—

41 (a) The Department of Education, in collaboration with the
42 Office of Early Learning, shall procure and require the use of a
43 statewide, standardized coordinated screening and progress
44 monitoring system for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
45 Program and public schools. The system must:

46 1. Measure student progress in meeting the appropriate
47 expectations in early literacy and mathematics skills and in
48 English Language Arts and mathematics standards as required by
49 ss. 1002.67(1)(a) and 1003.41 and identify the educational
50 strengths and needs of students.

51 2. For students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
52 Program through grade 3, measure student performance in oral
53 language development, phonological and phonemic awareness,
54 knowledge of print and letters, decoding, fluency, vocabulary,
55 and comprehension, as applicable by grade level, and, at a
56 minimum, provide interval level and norm-referenced data that
57 measures equivalent levels of growth.

58 3. Be a valid, reliable, and developmentally appropriate

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59 computer-based direct instrument that provides screening and
60 diagnostic capabilities for monitoring student progress;
61 identifies students who have a substantial deficiency in reading
62 or mathematics, including identifying students with
63 characteristics of dyslexia, dyscalculia, and other learning
64 disorders; and informs instruction. Any student identified by
65 the system as having characteristics of dyslexia or dyscalculia
66 shall undergo further screening. Any student whose performance
67 in the system meets thresholds established by State Board of
68 Education rule in circumstances in which the system is not
69 capable of identifying characteristics of dyslexia or
70 dyscalculia must undergo further screening. The further
71 screening required under this subparagraph is used to refine
72 instructional planning and parental communication and is not a
73 prerequisite to the interventions or evaluation obligations
74 described in subsection (4). The State Board of Education shall
75 adopt rules establishing timelines, performance thresholds, and
76 parental notification requirements for further screening under
77 this subparagraph. Screening activities under this subsection
78 shall occur concurrently with the interventions and evaluation
79 obligations described in subsection (4) and may not be used to
80 delay or deny an appropriate evaluation. Beginning with the
81 2023-2024 school year, the coordinated screening and progress
82 monitoring system must be computer-adaptive.

83 4. Provide data for Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
84 Program accountability as required under s. 1002.68.

85 5. Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
86 providers, school districts, schools, teachers, and parents with
87 data and resources that enhance differentiated instruction and

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88 parent communication.

89 6. Provide baseline data to the department of each
90 student's readiness for kindergarten. The determination of
91 kindergarten readiness must be based on the results of each
92 student's initial progress monitoring assessment in
93 kindergarten. The methodology for determining a student's
94 readiness for kindergarten must be developed by the department
95 and aligned to the methodology adopted pursuant to s.
96 1002.68(4).

97 7. Assess how well educational goals and curricular
98 standards are met at the provider, school, district, and state
99 levels and provide information to the department to aid in the
100 development of educational programs, policies, and supports for
101 providers, districts, and schools.

102 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.