

School Readiness (SR) Developmental Screening in the SR Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The Division of Early Learning (DEL) provides this FAQ as guidance for Developmental Screening in the School Readiness Program effective March 26, 2026, and reflects only the components of the rule that have changed. View Rule 6M-4.720, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), [here](#).

1. How many days do parents have to complete the developmental screening?

Parents have up to 20 calendar days after enrollment into the SR Program to complete the developmental screening.

2. Has the timeframe for providers to complete the developmental screening changed?

No. Providers have 45 calendar days from the “screening start date” to complete screenings, excluding state-observed holidays. However, the provider’s screening start date begins after the parent’s timeframe to complete the screening (20 calendar days) has ended.

3. Which children are exempt from the screening requirement?

Children who are exempt from the developmental screening requirement have not changed. A child does not need to be screened if:

- The child was screened in another program within the last 12 months, and the results were shared with the early learning coalition by the screening due date; **or**
- The child already receives services through an Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP) or Individual Educational Plan (IEP) that was reviewed or updated within the last 12 months and shared with the coalition by the screening due date.

4. When must a coalition notify a provider about the children it must screen?

This process has not changed. A coalition must notify the provider no later than 15 calendar days after each child’s screening start date.

5. What must the provider notification from the coalition include?

This process has not changed. At a minimum, the notification must include the child’s name, the child’s date of birth, the screening start date and the screening due date.

6. When must a coalition initiate intervention practices?

This process has not changed. A coalition must initiate intervention practices no later than 30 calendar days after screening results with concerns are identified and shared with the parent. The process includes concern analysis, implementing interventions, plan evaluation and referrals.

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7. What must happen when a child is referred to early intervention services or specialized care?

This process has not changed. When a child is referred, the parent is notified in writing. The notice must explain the areas of concern identified during the screening and provide local contact information for the appropriate referral agency. The coalition must also offer to contact the referral agency.

8. What must a coalition do if a parent declines intervention practices or referrals?

This process has not changed. The coalition must document the parent's decision and inform the provider.