

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Consent Item**  
August 18, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Amendment to Rule 6M-4.720, Screening of Children in the School Readiness Program

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

For Approval

**AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION**

Section 1001.02, F.S.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Division of Early Learning (DEL) administers federal and state child care funds and partners with 30 local early learning coalitions to deliver comprehensive early learning services statewide. The office oversees three programs—the School Readiness Program, the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, and Child Care Resource and Referral services. Legislation passed during the 2021 session changed the state governance structure for early learning and provides authority for the State Board of Education to adopt early learning rules.

FDOE/DEL is statutorily required to establish by rule an age appropriate screening for children ages birth to five and a referral process for identified developmental delays. The rule outlines procedures for implementation of developmental screenings and establishes a process for early learning coalitions to provide support services for children ages birth to kindergarten eligibility with delays based on screening data and analysis.

Rule 6M-4.720 is amended to clarify the process for child screenings conducted by parents, child care providers or early learning coalitions. The rule text has been updated to reflect conduction of child screenings within the single statewide information system and an early intervention and referral process that better aligns supportive services with child screening data upon analysis of identified developmental delays. The revised rule removes incorporated Form OEL-SR 24 and replaces parental consent or denial of conduction of child screening within the single statewide information system. Additional changes to the rule text include updated timeframes for screening data to be entered into the single statewide information system and how screening results are shared with parents.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** Proposed Rule 6M-4.720, F.A.C.

**Facilitator/Presenter:** Matt Mears, Director, Division of Early Learning