



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
fldoe.org

School Readiness Program Special Needs Differential Training Requirements Guide

June 2026

Questions?

Email DEL.Questions@DEL.FLDOE.ORG

Table of Contents

Overview	3
Training Requirements.....	3
Florida Early Childhood Professional Development Registry	3
University of Florida (UF) Lastinger Center for Learning.....	5
Autism Navigator	5
Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services.....	6

Overview

Serving Florida's most vulnerable children is a critical goal for the School Readiness (SR) Program, which includes children with special needs and learning delays. To ensure children with special needs who require additional accommodations beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) have access to high quality early learning programs, the Division of Early Learning (DEL) offers a special needs differential to School Readiness (SR) providers that meet the requirements in section 1002.89(1)(d), Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Rule 6M-4.500(7), Florida Administrative Code.

Training Requirements

This guide provides a comprehensive list of courses to meet the training required to qualify to receive the special needs differential beginning July 1, 2027. As specified in section 1002.89(1)(d)2. and 3., F.S., these requirements include:

- Training on early identification of social and communication delays,
- Ten (10) hours of training on inclusive early childhood education practices or inclusive school-age education practices within 90 days after the child's enrollment or within 90 days after hiring a new instructor assigned to the child and
- At least 2 hours of related training each year.

Staff must upload certificates of completion for any courses taken outside of the Florida Early Childhood Professional Development Registry (Registry) to their individual Registry account and provide a copy of their transcript if requested by the early learning coalition. Registry transcripts are automatically updated with any training courses completed through the Florida Early Childhood Professional Development Registry and the University of Florida Lastinger Center for Learning. For assistance with uploading certificates or navigating the Registry, contact the Child Care Training Information Center at 1-888-352-2842 or email HQW.Child.Care.Training@myflfamilies.com.

Key

Information for each course indicates the course title, description, hours, age group and course type.

Age Group	Birth – 5: 
	School-age: 
Course Type	EISCD: Early identification of social and communication delays IEC: Inclusive early childhood education practices ISA: Inclusive school-age education practices

Florida Early Childhood Professional Development Registry

The Florida Early Childhood Professional Development Registry hosts courses on strengthening instructional practices, child growth and development, best practices associated with guiding children's behaviors towards appropriate expectations and methods associated with addressing challenging behaviors. These courses are self-paced and have knowledge checks at the end.

Cost: Free

Location: <https://childcaretraining.myflfamilies.com/studentsite/admin/signin>

Online or Instructor-Led: Online

Florida Early Childhood Professional Development Registry			
Course Title	Description	Hours	Course Type
Basic Guidance and Discipline	Provides an overview of basic guidance and discipline and the fundamentals of setting up an early childhood environment to support the positive guidance and discipline of children, rather than punishment.	5	EISCD IEC ISA  
Challenging Behaviors Awareness and Prevention	Provides common examples of challenging behaviors exhibited by children as well as causes of these behaviors and methods of prevention.	5	EISCD IEC 
Developmentally Appropriate Classroom Management	Provides strategies necessary for helping children to develop social and emotional skills.	3	EISCD IEC 
Developing the Socially and Emotionally Competent Child	Provides information and strategies on supporting children's developing social skills and emotional competence.	4	EISCD IEC 
Preventing Expulsion and Suspension in Early Childhood Programs	Provides skills and strategies to avoid expelling and/or suspending children and families from programs.	3	EISCD IEC 
School-Age Appropriate Practices	Provides information on how children grow and learn, how to create positive learning environments, work with families, observe and assess children, use positive guidance, and support quality caregiving.	5	ISA 
Special Needs Appropriate Practices	Provides strategies for children who have disabilities, developmental delays or intellectual gifts.	10	EISCD IEC 
Supporting Children with Developmental Disabilities	Provides practical instruction on caring for children with developmental disabilities.	5	IEC 
Trauma-Informed Care for Early Childhood	Provides strategies for implementing trauma-informed care for the families they serve.	5	IEC 
Trauma-Informed Care for Child Care Professionals	Provides knowledge and skills to handle the impacts of traumatic events on the children and families they serve.	5	IEC ISA  
Understanding Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Sensory Processing Disorder	Provides an overview and early signs of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Sensory Processing Disorder conditions.	3	EISCD IEC 
Working to Create Positive Learning Environments: Preventive Strategies	Provides specific strategies for creating a positive learning environment.	4	IEC 

University of Florida (UF) Lastinger Center for Learning

The UF Lastinger Center for Learning hosts online early childhood courses on practical teaching strategies that are aligned with the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards. As available, these courses are offered either in the Fall or Spring terms. These courses are self-paced, and participants earn a certificate by achieving the minimum score on the knowledge check at the end of the course.

Cost: Free

Location: <https://lastingerlearning.com/programs/early-childhood/>

Online or Instructor-Led: Online

UF Lastinger Center for Learning			
Course Title	Description	Hours	Course Type
Guiding Preschool Behavior and Building Classroom Community*	Provides information on creating positive classroom environments and guiding children's behavior.	20	EISCD IEC 
Inclusion in the Preschool Setting*	Provides strategies for creating inclusive environments that support all children.	20	IEC 
Infant Toddler Social-Emotional Development*	Provides strategies and supports for social-emotional development of infants and toddlers.	20	EISCD IEC 
Using Observation to Inform Individualized Instruction in Preschool*	Provides strategies for weaving observation and assessment into daily teaching practices in ways that best meet the needs of children.	20	IEC 
Using Observation To Support Developmentally Appropriate Practice with Infants And Toddlers*	Provides information about using observation to support developmentally appropriate practice with infants and toddlers to sensitively respond to children's needs.	20	IEC 
Supporting Early Intervention with Infants and Toddlers*	Provides information about supporting infants and toddlers receiving early intervention services.	20	IEC 

* Course is offered in English and Spanish.

Autism Navigator

Autism Navigator is a web-based instructional program developed by the Florida State University Autism Institute to increase the capacity of primary care, early intervention, and other service providers, as well as families, to better serve young children with or at risk for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Autism Navigator hosts online courses with interactive slides and a library of video clips. These courses are self-paced, and participants earn a certificate by achieving the minimum score on the knowledge check at the end of the course.

Cost: Free for Florida residents upon submission of the [Florida Enrollment Requests](#) form

Location: <https://autismnavigator.com>

Online or Instructor-Led: Online

Autism Navigator			
Course Title	Description	Hours	Course Type
Classroom Success in PreK to 2 nd Grade	Provides strategies to increase classroom support for children with ASD.	15	EISCD ISA 
Social Communication Development in Infants and Toddlers	Provides examples of social communication milestones that develop from 9 to 24 months.	17.5	EISCD 
Autism Navigator JumpStart To Coaching in Everyday Activities	Provides training for a variety of disciplines to support families of young children with or at risk of autism.	20	EISCD 

Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

The Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEES) administers programs for students with disabilities. BEES hosts independent self-paced courses year-round and facilitated courses which include communication with a facilitator, group meetings with colleagues and classroom-related learning activities and assessments. These courses are self-paced, and participants earn a certificate by achieving the minimum score on the knowledge check at the end of the course.

Cost: Free

Location: <https://fl-pla.org/#/home>

Online or Instructor-Led: Online

Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services			
Course Title	Description	Hours	Course Type
Developmentally Appropriate Practices in Pre-K Settings	Provides information and instructional practices that support young children with special needs in preschool learning environments.	10	IEC 
Increasing Outcomes for All Pre-K Children	Provides information for developing activities and supports based on Florida Early Learning Developmental Standards and individualized interventions to increase outcomes.	10	EISCD 
Strategies to Support Pre-K Activities and Routines	Provides an overview of developmental skills and milestones related to children's participation in the classroom.	10	IEC 