



## **2026 PRIORITY BILLS WE SUPPORT**

### **1. Terminology Associated with Autism**

HB 411/SB1652 – Autism Spectrum Disorder Definition  
Sen. Burgess / Rep. Maggard

### **2. Individual Education Plans (IEP) Timeline Rules**

SB 72 / HB 615 – Individual Education Plans  
Sen. Harrell / Rep. Tendrich

### **3. Classroom & Exceptional Student Supports**

SB 1170/ HB 859 – Cameras in Special Education Classrooms  
Sen. Calatayud / Rep. Chambliss

### **4. Enhancing Safety & Interaction Supports**

SB 418 / HB 365 – Law Enforcement Interactions with ASD  
Sen. Jones / Rep. Valdes

### **5. Supporting Student & School-Based Mental Health**

SB 978 – Student Mental Health Assistance Programs  
Sen. Osgood



As a multidisciplinary provider serving children, adolescents, and adults, the **Adult and Pediatric Institute** champions legislation that **expands access to pediatric mental health care, autism evaluations, and early intervention services in Florida**. Our advocacy is rooted in direct clinical experience and family partnerships that support meaningful, evidence-based policy change.

## 2026 PRIORITY BILLS WE SUPPORT & WHY THEY MATTER

### 1. Strengthening Autism Definitions & School Supports

HB 411/SB1652 – Autism Spectrum Disorder Definitions & Educational Supports

- Revises definitions and ensures consistent terminology in Florida law – reducing confusion for providers and families navigating services.

**Our Policy Goal:** Align statute with up-to-date clinical definitions so families receive appropriate diagnoses and educational supports sooner.

### 2. Individual Education Plans (IEP) Timeline Rules

SB 72 / HB 615 – Individual Education Plans

- Designed to strengthen the timeliness, accountability, and transparency of the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process for students with disabilities in Florida.

**Our Policy Goal:** Ensure that IEPs are implemented consistently, transparently, and within clear timelines to protect the educational rights of students with disabilities, support meaningful parental engagement in their child's education, and ensure parental access to their child's records.

### 3. Classroom & Exceptional Student Supports

SB 1170 / HB 859 – Cameras in Special Education Classrooms

- Requires districts to establish a policy to provide video cameras in self-contained classrooms when a parent requests them and prohibits schools or their districts from concealing the identity of employees in a video recording.

**Our Policy Goal:** Promote student health, safety, and transparency in special education settings by supporting thoughtful and protective use of video cameras in self-contained classrooms for exceptional students.

### 4. Enhancing Safety & Interaction Supports

SB 418 / HB 365 – Law Enforcement Interactions with ASD

- Requires the Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles and the Criminal Justice Standards & Training Commission to develop training programs to improve interactions between law enforcement and individuals with autism.

**Our Policy Goal:** Promote community safety and understanding between Law Enforcement Officers and individuals with ASD.

### 5. Supporting Student & School-Based Mental Health

SB 978 – Student Mental Health Assistance Programs

- Requires the State Board of Education to enforce maximum class size restrictions and include policies ensuring at least one licensed mental health therapist per school and emotional regulation supports for every classroom.

**Our Policy Goal:** Expand in-school access to licensed pediatric mental health providers to support early intervention and wrap-around care.

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### Our Commitment

The Adult and Pediatric Institute remains committed to partnering with Florida’s lawmakers to advance effective, evidence-based policies that support children and families – ensuring that every child receives the care and opportunities they deserve.

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