



Honorable Kay Ivey, Governor

Ami Brooks, Secretary

August 20, 2026

Dear Early Childhood Education Leaders,

The Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education (ADECE), in collaboration with the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR) and the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), is pleased to share the first resource in the Healthy Early Development and Screen Time Resource Series: Understanding the Law, developed to help early childhood education programs become familiar with the Healthy Early Development and Screen Time Act (Act 2026-169).

Effective January 1, 2027, Act 2026-169 reflects Alabama's commitment to supporting the healthy development of young children through developmentally appropriate learning experiences. The Act recognizes what early childhood educators have long understood—that young children learn best through responsive relationships, meaningful interactions with caring adults, active play, exploration, and hands-on learning experiences. It also recognizes that technology can be a valuable educational tool when used intentionally, appropriately, and in ways that support, rather than replace, these foundational experiences.

Because Act 2026-169 requires collaboration among ADECE, DHR, and ALSDE, our agencies are working together to ensure consistent implementation across all early childhood education programs covered by the Act. As part of that effort, we have developed this first resource to provide an overview of Act 2026-169, introduce its key requirements, and answer many of the questions programs may have as they prepare for future implementation.

This packet includes:

- Healthy Early Development and Screen Time Act: At a Glance
- Healthy Early Development and Screen Time Act: Key Terms and Definitions
- Healthy Early Development and Screen Time Act: Responsibilities by Program Type
- Healthy Early Development and Screen Time Act: Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

As you review these materials, we encourage you to consider how Act 2026-169 aligns with your current policies and practices. Additional resources, including screen time standards, family guidelines, professional development resources, and supporting tools, will be shared prior to the law's effective date.



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Our goal is to support clear, collaborative implementation while building on the outstanding work already taking place across Alabama to foster healthy learning and development for young children.

Thank you for your continued dedication to Alabama's children and families and your partnership in successfully implementing the Healthy Early Development and Screen Time Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ami Brooks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Secretary
Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education