

Healthy Early Development and Screen Time Act Responsibilities by Program Type

Use this section to identify your path.

Act 2026-169 assigns implementation and compliance responsibilities according to the entity that oversees the covered program. The requirements below are limited to what appears in the Healthy Development and Screen Time Act.

Requirements that apply across all covered program types

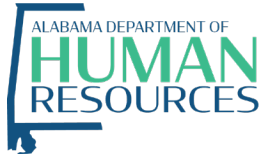
- No screen time may be allowed for students under two years of age.
- Screen-based media may not be unreasonably used as a substitute for teacher-led instruction, reading, hands-on learning, or outdoor play.
- Screen-based media must meet the screen time standards developed for their program type and must be actively supervised by staff.
- Background television and passive screen time are prohibited.
- Teachers and staff members who closely supervise children must complete annual training modules.
- The statutory non-application provisions for IEPs, Section 504 plans, Individualized Health Plans, required kindergarten diagnostics and assessments, and approved virtual programs remain in effect.

[Act 2026-169 references: §§26-24-62 through 26-24-64](#)

Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR) Licensed Child Care Facilities

- Covered facilities also include: day care centers, day care homes, group day care homes, and night care facilities serving children five years of age and younger.
- Any afterschool, extended day, or summer program provided by the covered facility is included.
- Staff who supervise children must undergo the training established under Act 2026-169.
- DHR must review compliance during inspections under Section 38-7-11.
- Each facility must implement and abide by a screen time policy meeting Act 2026-169 as a condition of licensing.
- If a facility is not in compliance, DHR must prioritize additional training through the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education with noncompliant staff members. If noncompliance continues, DHR may adopt or enforce a corrective action plan.
- DHR must incorporate a compliant screen time policy into minimum standards for licensing and approving covered facilities.

[Act 2026-169 references: §26-24-60\(3\) and \(5\); §26-24-65\(a\)\(1\); §38-7-7.1](#)



Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education (ADECE): Prekindergarten programs operating under Article 2*

- The Secretary of the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education will incorporate a screen time policy into the Alabama First Class Pre-K guidelines. Each covered prekindergarten program must implement and abide by that policy, which must meet the requirements of Act 2026-169 and reflect the screen time standards.
- Prekindergarten teachers must annually complete the required training.
- The Secretary may monitor compliance as deemed necessary.
- When a program is not in compliance, ADECE must prioritize additional training with relevant staff members. If noncompliance continues, the ADECE may establish or enforce a corrective action plan.
- Any afterschool, extended day, or summer program provided by the covered prekindergarten program is included in the Act 2026-169's definition of an early childhood education program.

Act 2026-169 references: §26-24-60(3); §26-24-65(a)(2) and (b)

*First Class Pre-K Programs

Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) and Local Boards: Public Kindergarten Programs

- No later than the 2027-2028 school year, each local board of education must adopt a screen time policy providing guidance on appropriate use of screen-based media in kindergarten classrooms. Each covered kindergarten program must implement and abide by that policy, which must meet the requirements of Act 2026-169 and reflect the screen time standards.
- The policy must meet the Act 2026-169 requirements with respect to kindergarten classrooms.
- Kindergarten teachers are required to annually complete the screen time training, as well as those that closely monitor children.
- The local school principal monitors compliance.
- For an initial instance of teacher noncompliance, the principal must provide additional training.
- Continued noncompliance is considered a violation of the Alabama Educator Code of Ethics, and the principal may proceed with disciplinary action adopted by the Alabama State Department of Education, including corrective action, with approval from the local superintendent.
- Any afterschool, extended day, or summer program provided by the covered public kindergarten program is included.

Act 2026-169 references: §26-24-60(3); §26-24-65(a)(3); §16-40-15