#### FLORIDA CARE PROVIDER BACKGROUND SCREENING CLEARINGHOUSE

Taylor Haddock Assistant Deputy Secretary Division of Health Quality Assurance

David Pinsky Unit Manager Background Screening Unit



# Senate Bill 676 (2023)

- Section 1012.315, Florida Statutes A person is ineligible for educator certification or employment in any position that requires direct contact with students in a district school system, a charter school, or a private school that participates in a state scholarship program under chapter 1002 if the person:
- (1) Is on the disqualification list maintained by the department under s. 1001.10(4)(b);
- (2) Is registered as a sex offender as described in 42 U.S.C. s. 9858f(c)(1)(C);
- (3) Is ineligible based on a security background investigation under s. 435.04(2). Beginning January 1, 2025, or a later date as determined by the Agency for Health Care Administration, the Agency for Health Care Administration shall determine the eligibility of employees in any position that requires direct contact with students in a district school system, a charter school, or a private school that participates in a state scholarship program under chapter 1002;
- (4) Would be ineligible for an exemption under s. 435.07(4)(c); or
- (5) Has been convicted or found guilty of, has had adjudication withheld for, or has pled guilty or nolo contendere to:
- (a) Any criminal act committed in another state or under federal law which, if committed in this state, constitutes a disqualifying offense under s. 435.04(2).
- (b) Any delinquent act committed in this state or any delinquent or criminal act committed in another state or under federal law which, if committed in this state, qualifies an individual for inclusion on the Registered Juvenile Sex Offender List under s. 943.0435(1)(h)1.d.



# Clearinghouse Timeline

Clearinghouse established by Florida legislature to reduce duplicative screenings; Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) made parent agency

January – Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) launches the Clearinghouse with Department of Health (DOH)

November – Managed Care joins the Clearinghouse

Department of Education Vocational Rehabilitation (DOE-VR) joins the Clearinghouse

May – Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) joins the Clearinghouse July – Department of Children and Families (DCF) joins the Clearinghouse September – Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) joins the Clearinghouse

Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) joins the Clearinghouse

Florida Department of Education (FDOE) joins the Clearinghouse

Volunteer and Employee Criminal History System (VECHS) joins the Clearinghouse



2015

2016

2025

2026

### Clearinghouse: Initiating Screenings

Initiating screenings through the Clearinghouse is required per section 435.12(2)(c), of the Florida Statutes.

- To be entered into the Clearinghouse, a person screened must:
  - Undergo Level 2 screening and have fingerprints retained by FDLE, and
  - · Have a photograph taken at the time of screening, and
  - Sign the FBI privacy policy

#### By initiating the screening through the Clearinghouse, providers can:

- Enter applicant demographic information once (no need to use both the Clearinghouse and a service provider website)
- Reduce duplicative/unnecessary screening costs
  - Initiating a screening will enable providers to access a public record of the applicant's Florida criminal history report, subsequent arrest notifications, fingerprint retention expiration notifications, and changes in eligibility status.
- Seamlessly connect with approved Livescan service providers, so the provider may enter applicant information, as well as schedule and pay for fingerprinting appointments through one system.
- Your applicant's screenings that are in process and screening results will be displayed on your provider home page, reducing the need to search the entire database.
- Per section 435.06(2)(b), F.S., if an employer becomes aware that an employee/contractor has been arrested for a disqualifying
  offense, the employer must remove the employee/contractor from contact with any vulnerable person that places the employee in a
  role that requires background screening.

PLEASE NOTE -- Social security numbers or ITINs are required by law for an individual to be screened through the Clearinghouse

Initial employment /contract status and any changes in employment status must be reported within five (5) business days

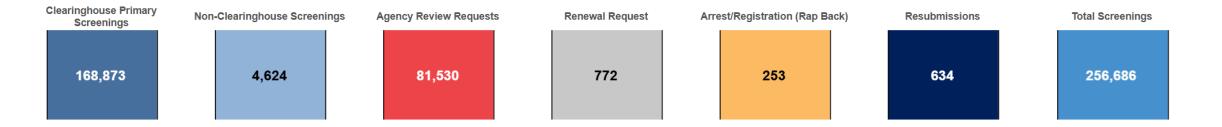


# **Screening Statuses**

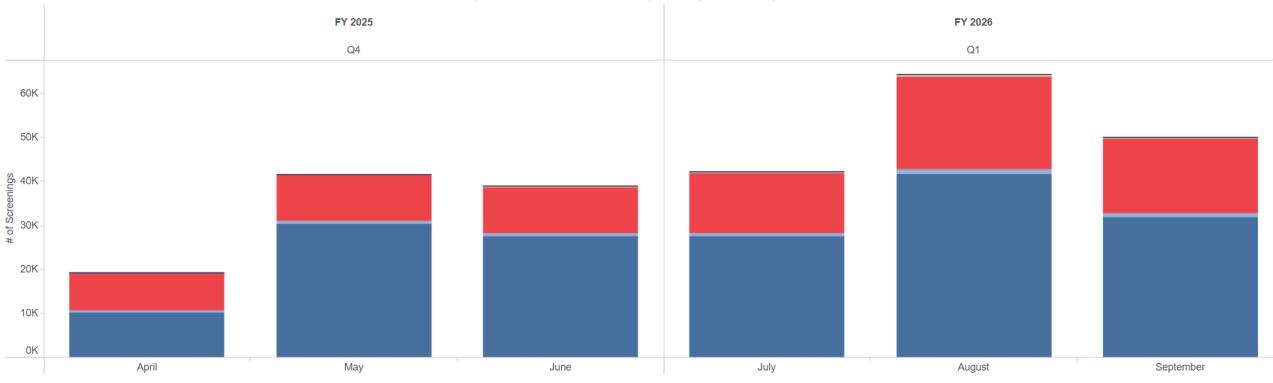
- Additional Information Requested from Applicant
  - A letter has been mailed to the applicant
  - Something is incomplete on the results received from FDLE/FBI
- Screening in Process
  - Results have been received from FDLE/FBI and are being processed
- Awaiting Fingerprints
  - A screening has been initiated in the Clearinghouse, and the applicant's prints have not yet been sent to FDLE/FBI



#### **Department of Education Screenings, April 7-September 30**

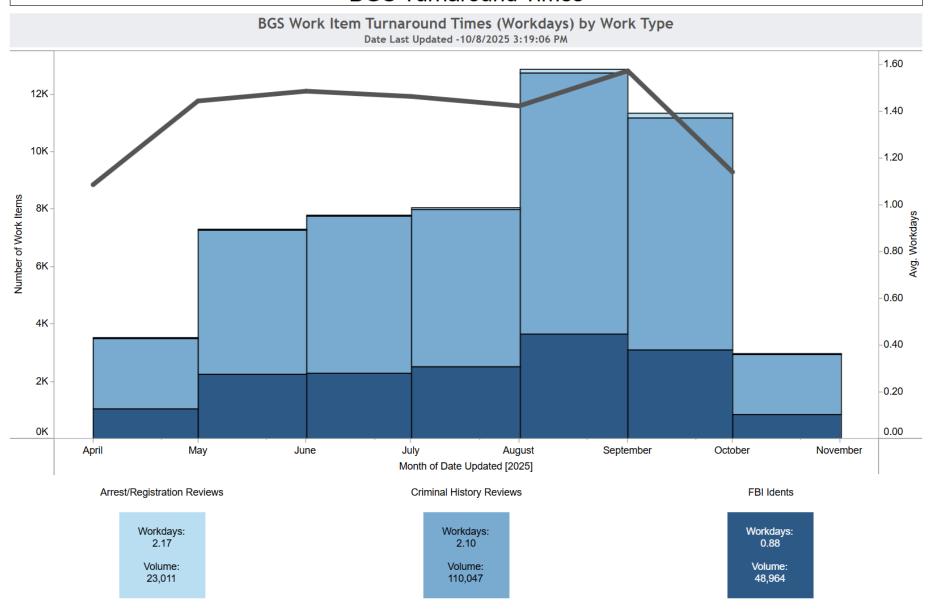


-To calculate totals for specific time frames click on month, quarter, or year below to update totals in the above boxes-





#### **BGS Turnaround Times**





## **Exemptions Process**

- Applicant Eligibility Determination: Not Eligible
- Department of Education has recently delegated the authority to grant exemptions to Private Schools for their employees and volunteers
- Ability to add exceptions added to the Clearinghouse in recent update
  - Exceptions will allow for employees that are listed as Not Eligible to be added to Employee Roster
- AHCA has no authority to grant an exemption for an employee, nor to give guidance on what the exemption process should look like
- For guidance on the exemption process, please contact Bonnie Wilmot with Department of Education



#### **BRUCE WILLIS**







First Name BRUCE

Middle Name

Last Name WILLIS

Aliases

SSN XXX-XX-0060

Date of Birth 12/24/1972
Place of Birth Florida

Mailing 123 tall
Address
Apt/Unit/Suite
City Tall
State Florida
Zip Code 32311
Phone Number

**Email Address** 

Sex MALE
Race WHITE
Hair Color Bald
Eye Color Blue
Height 5' 05"
Weight 175
Person ID 4285226

Retained Prints
Expiration Date
2/7/2029
Clearinghouse Status
Yes

#### **DOE-Private Schools Eligibility**

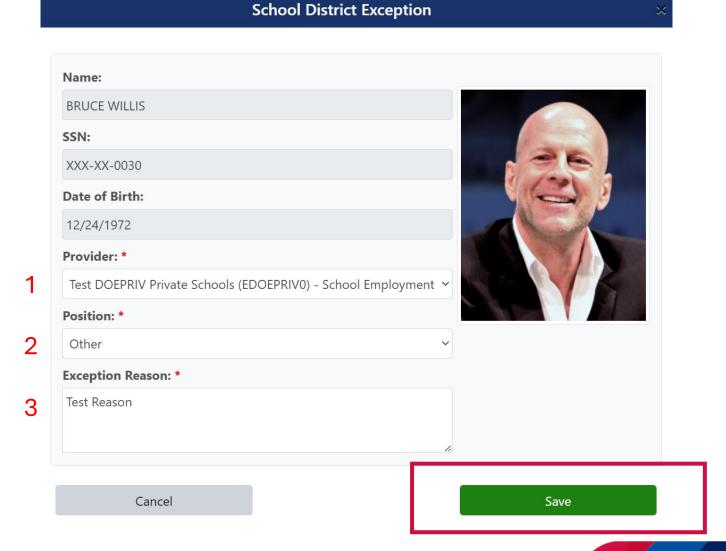
Туре	Item	Eligibility Determination	Eligibility Determination Date
Employment	School Employment	Not Eligible	09/17/2025
Employment	Owners/Operators	Agency Review Required	
			② Explanation of Results



#### **School Personnel Exception**









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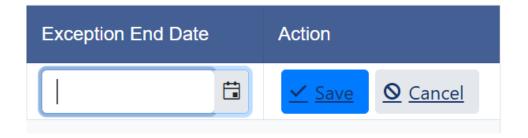
Position	Exception Reason	Exception Date	Exception End Date	Action
Other	Test Reason	10/08/2025		<u> Edit</u>
d	items per page			1 - 1 of 1 items

• Create an Exception to add in Roster



#### **School Personnel Exception**





Exception Date	Exception End Date	Action
10/08/2025	10/08/2025	<u>Edit</u>



### **Future Enhancements**

- Ability to create profiles without an SSN/ITIN
  - SEVIS, Passport, etc.
- Ability for applicants to initiate their own screenings
  - Unique provider code
- Ability for applicants to coordinate directly with the Agency to fill out and submit documents through secure portal
- Implementation of National RAP Back Program
- Automation of certain records for certain programs



# Background Screening Unit Contact Information

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