

**The Florida Senate**  
**HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY**

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Education Pre-K -12

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[2026h00851.hms.ed]

BILL: CS/HB 851 (CS/SB 206)

INTRODUCER: Student Academic Success Subcommittee and Reps. Long and others (Senators Harrell and Masullo)

SUBJECT: Professional Learning for Instructional and School Administrative Personnel

DATE: March 12, 2026

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**I. Amendments Contained in Message:**

**Senate Amendment – 354086 (body with title)**

**II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:**

**Senate Amendment – 354086** retains from HB 851 the requirement for school district professional development programs to include at least one autism-specific opportunity. The amendment also adds to the House bill the provisions from CS/SB 206 that:

- Require exceptional student education (ESE) teachers in an Educator Preparation Institute (EPI) to earn the autism microcredential, and after August 2027 all EPI participants receive instruction on autism and other specified exceptionalities.
- Require after August 2027 inservice hours for renewal of an educator certificate include instruction in autism and other specified exceptionalities; and such hours must include the autism microcredential for ESE-certified teachers.
- Require the Coaching for Educator Readiness and Teaching alternate certification program include completion of the autism microcredential for an ESE-certified teacher.
- Require teacher preparation programs include instruction to support students with autism and other specified exceptionalities; and to include the autism microcredential as credit for program completion.
- Create the Autism Educator Loan Forgiveness Program to recruit and retain ESE teachers for students with autism.
- Specify that a district may choose to provide incentives for ESE teachers who earn the autism endorsement, not subject to collective bargaining.
- Requires school districts to provide salary supplements for personnel who earn an autism endorsement.
- Authorize a stipend for completion of an autism endorsement, subject to an appropriation.