



Department
of Health

RELATION OF POLICY CHANGE TO EXCLUDE SUPPLEMENTAL EVALUATION DURING MULTIDISCIPLINARY EVALUATION WITH AUTISM DIAGNOSIS AND SERVICES

KEN MOEHRINGER, MPA, FISCAL PLANNING AND POLICY UNIT
DR. SHU-KUANG TAI, DATA UNIT

SEPTEMBER 16, 2026- EARLY INTERVENTION COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING – ALBANY, NY

INTRODUCTION

- Question from the June 2026 Early Intervention Coordinating Council meeting
 - Present data to show the relationship between excluding supplemental evaluation (SE) as part of the Multidisciplinary Evaluation (MDE) from September 1, 2024, on autism diagnosis and services.
 - Concern 1: The policy change delayed diagnosis of autism.
 - Concern 2: This has negatively impacted the level of services authorized for these children. For instance, authorized Special Instruction (SI) units.



METHODOLOGY

- **Cohort:** Children who received an autistic disorder diagnosis.
- **Data timeframe:** Referrals occurring between September 1, 2023, and August 31, 2025.
- **Exposure:**
 - Pre-policy period: Referral date (within 1 year) before September 1, 2024.
 - Post-policy period: Referral date (within 1 year) on or after September 1, 2024.
- **Outcomes:**
 - Days from referral to Multidisciplinary Evaluation (MDE), Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) and diagnosis within both pre- and post-policy periods.
 - Special Instruction (SI) and other related services authorized units/week per child within both pre- and post-policy periods.
 - Prevalence of autistic disorder diagnosis.



DISCUSSION

- Discussion and Questions