

Annual Summary Report of Vision Screenings

in

Arkansas Public and Charter Schools

School Year 2019-2020

As required by A.C.A §6-18-1803

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## Vision Summary Report for 2019-2020

The vision screening for school-age children in Arkansas public and charter schools includes Pre-K (4 year olds); grades K, 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, any transfer student, or students suspected of having a problem by a parent, teacher, or other school personnel. Only school nurses certified for vision screening in the schools may perform the vision screening procedure mandated by A.C.A §6-18-1501 (2005). If an optometrist or ophthalmologist has evaluated a child in the last six months and documentation is provided to the district, screening is not required. In the 2019-2020 school year, Arkansas school nurses screened 251,246 students of which 27,387 were referred for follow-up. Of those referred, 8,566 students received a follow-up exam and 7,623 (89%) were confirmed to have difficulty and received treatment. The data clearly indicates a major gap between the school nurse screening and the follow-up exam with a doctor for a comprehensive approach to vision and eye health for Arkansas students.

Many children with vision disorders have unmet needs for care, leaving them vulnerable to learning and development delays. It is important to provide a system of services to contribute to a comprehensive approach in supporting the whole child. Better health makes better learners, and identifying gaps with school-age children will strengthen the actions necessary to convene stakeholders to promote vision and eye health. Access to care continues to be the key contributor to the low numbers of students receiving a comprehensive eye and vision exam follow-up.

According to A.C.A §6-18-1501 (2005), the Arkansas Commission on Eye and Vision Care of School Age Children and the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) implemented the tests, procedures, equipment, and instrument requirements for screening school-age children. This protocol continues as best practice. The regional Department of Health Community Health Nurse Specialists (CHNS), housed at the local education cooperatives, train and assist school nurses on the protocol and procedure for vision screening in school districts. In addition, the CHNS educate school nurses on improving the documentation of services provided and follow-up to those services by utilizing the school and district data reports.

In October 2017, DESE, in consultation with the Arkansas Commission on Eye and Vision Care, provided a formal recommendation outlining the criteria and protocol for the auto refractor instrument to be used as an additional resource to perform vision-screening tests beyond state requirements in certain circumstances (Commissioner's Memo LS-18-027).

For the 2019-2020 school year, 23,154 were screened with an auto refractor instrument. The students referred for a comprehensive eye exam screened using an auto refractor were 2,867. The total number of students receiving a comprehensive eye exam of those referred were 968, and 878 confirmed to be abnormal.

The following resources are utilized by school districts to help assist parents with diagnostic eye exams and treatment:

- VSP Global® for *Sight for Students*®, an Eyes of Hope® gift certificate program school nurses that are members of the National Association of School Nurses receive 25 vouchers yearly
- Brandon Burlsworth Foundation, Eyes of Champion program (online certificate service)
- Rural Ophthalmology and Optometry Treatment & Screening (ROOTS)- services in central area on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- List of Optometrists and Ophthalmologists for Arkansas
- Local chapter of Lions Club International
- Parent educational materials on benefits and FAQs
- Referral to school-based health center, if available
- My School Info <https://myschoolinfo.arkansas.gov> to access Student Medical Vision Screening information for Districts and Schools

*Note: Reported data by the districts and schools may reflect duplicated student data (meaning the same student receiving a screening at two different schools may be entered)*

#### 2019-2020 VISION SCREENING INFORMATION

- Table contains Pre-Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade-Screenings, Use of an Auto-Refractor, Referrals, Received Exam, Confirmed Abnormal-Needed Treatment and/or Lens, and Confirmed Normal-No Treatment or Lens.
- Bar Graph for 5 Year Vision Screening Trend Report
- Table with 5 Year Vision Screening Trends and Accuracy of Referral



Table 1: 2019-2020 Vision Screening Summary

Grades	Total Screened	Use of an Auto-Refractor	Referred for F/U	Percent %	Received Exam	Percent %	Confirmed Abnormal/Needed Treatment and/or Lens	Percent %	Confirmed Normal/No Treatment and/or Lens	Percent %
Pre-Kindergarten	9130	3093	929	10.2%	388	41.8%	345	88.9%	43	11.1%
Kindergarten	36152	5754	3790	10.5%	1383	36.4%	1169	84.5%	214	15.5%
1st Grade	35531	5199	3733	10.5%	1298	34.8%	1128	86.9%	170	13.1%
2nd Grade	35205	2777	3884	11.0%	1334	34.3%	1163	87.2%	171	12.8%
3rd Grade	6762	803	894	13.2%	286	32.0%	262	91.6%	24	8.4%
4th Grade	34841	2279	3974	11.4%	1235	31.1%	1135	91.9%	100	8.1%
5th Grade	6302	807	763	12.1%	255	33.4%	225	88.2%	30	11.8%
6th Grade	36623	1068	4190	11.4%	1058	25.3%	947	89.5%	111	10.5%
7th Grade	4249	265	578	13.6%	162	28.0%	153	94.4%	9	5.6%
8th Grade	34251	971	3335	9.7%	800	24.0%	752	94.0%	48	6.0%
9th Grade	3443	37	390	11.3%	101	26.0%	94	93.1%	7	6.9%
10th Grade	4081	35	444	10.9%	129	29.0%	119	92.2%	10	7.8%
11th Grade	2648	37	294	11.1%	84	28.6%	79	94.0%	5	6.0%
12th Grade	2021	29	189	9.35%	53	28.0%	52	98.1%	1	1.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>251246</b>	<b>23154</b>	<b>27387</b>	<b>10.9%</b>	<b>8566</b>	<b>31.3%</b>	<b>7623</b>	<b>89.0%</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>11.0%</b>

Graph 1: 5 Year Vision Screening Trend Report

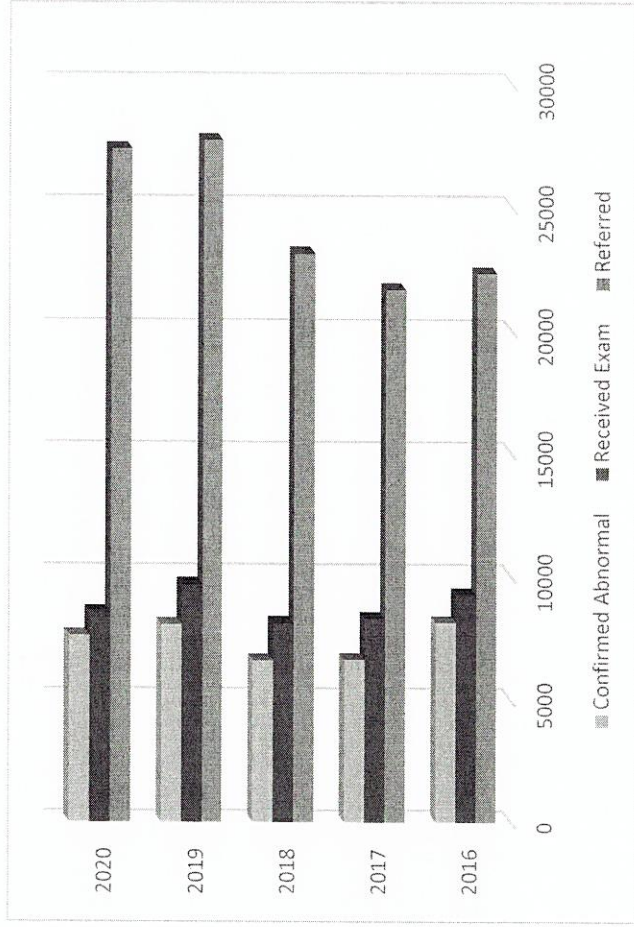


Table 2: 5 Year Vision Screening Trends and Accuracy of Referral

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Referred	22371	21704	23171	27730	27387
Received Exam	9285	8314	8136	9703	8566
Confirmed Abnormal	8157	6646	6627	8074	7623
Accuracy-Referrals Confirmed to be Abnormal	87%	80%	81%	83%	89%