

An Interim Report of Vision Screenings

In

Arkansas Public and Charter Schools

Fall Semester, School Year 2011-2012

As required by Act 1438 of 2005

Prepared by Paula Smith, MNsc, RNP
State School Nurse Consultant
Arkansas Department of Education

Act 1438 of 2005 requires that all Pre-kindergarten, Kindergarten, first, second, fourth, sixth and eighth grade and all transfer students undergo a vision screening. School nurses who receive training from the Community Health Nurse Specialist (CHNS) housed in the educational cooperatives across the state conduct these screenings. In 2006, these CHNS received training from the Eye and Vision Commission members as well as other volunteer optometrists and ophthalmologists. In addition, Act 1438 requires that the Eye and Vision Commission and the Department of Education report its findings and updates to the Governor, the Legislative Council, and the House and Senate Interim Committees on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor two times per year. To meet this mandate, in 2006 school nurses in all 245 school districts as well as the charter schools completed the Vision Summary Form for their school/district. Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, school nurses were able to enter vision screening results into the Arkansas Public School Computer Network (APSCN). This data is compiled and reported to the State School Nurse Consultant twice a year.

School Year 2011-2012

Overall. Students receiving a vision screening in the required grades (pre-K, K, 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 and all transfers) numbered 182,626. Referrals to an eye doctor numbered 12,092 students (7%) of which 3,230 students (27%) actually reported to the school nurse they received an exam. Of these students, 2,888 (89%) were identified as having a confirmed vision difficulty by an eye doctor.

Pre-Kindergarten. Of the 7,001 pre-kindergarten students screened, 268 students (4%) were referred to an eye doctor for an exam. Ninety-seven students (36%) actually reported to the school nurse they had received an eye exam and 82 students (85%) had a confirmed vision difficulty by an eye doctor.

Kindergarten. Twenty-nine thousand six hundred seventy-six kindergarten students received a vision screening and 1,455 students (5%) were referred to an eye doctor for an exam. Of these referrals, 490 (34%) actually reported to the school nurse they received an eye exam and 410 students (84%) had a confirmed vision difficulty by an eye doctor.

First Grade. There were 30,736 first-grade students who received a vision screening and as a result, 1,770 students (6%) were referred to an eye doctor for an exam. Five hundred fifty-two students (31%) actually reported to the school nurse they received an eye exam and 462 students (84%) had a confirmed vision difficulty by an eye doctor.

Second Grade. Of the 30,023 second-grade students screened for vision, 1,874 students (6%) were referred to an eye doctor for an exam. Five hundred sixty-two students (30%) actually reported to the school nurse they received an exam and 497 students (88%) had a confirmed vision difficulty by an eye doctor.

Fourth Grade. Twenty-nine thousand seven hundred fifty-eight fourth grade students were screened for vision and 2,334 students (8%) were referred to an eye doctor for an exam. Six hundred fifty-one students (28%) actually reported to the school nurse they received an exam with 605 students (93%) receiving a confirmed vision difficulty by an eye doctor.

Sixth Grade. There were 28,759 students screened for vision. Of these, 2,303 students (8%) were referred to an eye doctor for an exam. Four hundred eighty-four students (21%) actually reported to the school nurse they received an exam and 458 students (95%) had a confirmed difficulty by an eye doctor.

Eighth Grade. Of the 26,673 eighth grade students screened for vision, 2,088 students (8%) were referred to an eye doctor for an exam. Three hundred ninety-four students (19%) actually reported to the school nurse they received an exam and 374 students (95%) had a confirmed difficulty by an eye doctor.

Transfer students. Transfer students were reported in their respective grades as opposed to reporting them separately.

Other. All students receiving a vision screening in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 12 were 203,644. That is an additional 21,018 students screened that were not previously reported in the above grades. As a result of these extra screenings, an additional 1,703 students were referred to an eye doctor with 466 students reporting to the school nurse they received an exam. As a result, 420 students reported a confirmed vision difficulty by an eye doctor.

Ark. Code Ann. 6-18-1502. Eye exams.

(a) (1) A child who does not pass the eye and vision screening tests, except for the color perception test, shall be required to have a comprehensive eye and vision examination conducted by an optometrist or ophthalmologist within sixty (60) days of receipt of the vision screening report identifying the need for the examination.

(2) The parent or guardian of the child shall be responsible for ensuring that the child receives the appropriate eye and vision examination.

(b) (1) If a child does not receive an appropriate examination, as evidenced by a certificate signed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist acknowledging the examination, then the public school or public charter school where the child is registered shall report the child to the Department of Education.

(2) The local school district shall take such action as necessary to encourage that the child receive an appropriate examination

Students who do not pass the vision screening are referred to an optometrist or ophthalmologist for a comprehensive eye and vision examination. The parent notification/referral letter is available in English and Spanish on the Arkansas Coordinated School Health website, www.arkansascsch.org. School nurses provide information concerning funds available to cover the cost of the vision exam and glasses, if needed. Such resources include the Lions Club International, National Association of School Nurses, Vision America, Medicaid, ARKids First and Brandon Burlsworth Foundation. This information is also available on the Coordinated School Health website, www.arkansascsch.org.

Vision Screenings, Fall Semester, 2011-2012

Grade	Screened	Referred	Received Exam	Confirmed Difficulty	Confirmed Normal
Pre-kindergarten	7,001	268	97	82	15
Kindergarten	29,676	1,455	490	410	80
First	30,736	1,770	552	462	90
Second	30,023	1,874	562	497	65
Fourth	29,758	2,334	651	605	46
Sixth	28,759	2,303	484	458	26
Eighth	26,673	2,088	394	374	20
TOTALS	182,626	12,092	3,230	2,888	342

Vision Screenings, Fall Semester, 2010-2011

Grade	Screened	Referred	Received Exam	Confirmed Difficulty	Confirmed Normal
Pre-kindergarten	5011	170	47	38	9
Kindergarten	26,810	1,087	330	277	53
First	27,491	1,323	347	301	46
Second	27,912	1,529	371	332	39
Fourth	28,391	1,643	380	354	26
Sixth	27,132	2,157	410	380	30
Eighth	25,032	1,721	348	318	30
TOTALS	167,779	9,630	2,233	2,000	233

Vision Screenings, Fall Semester, 2009-2010

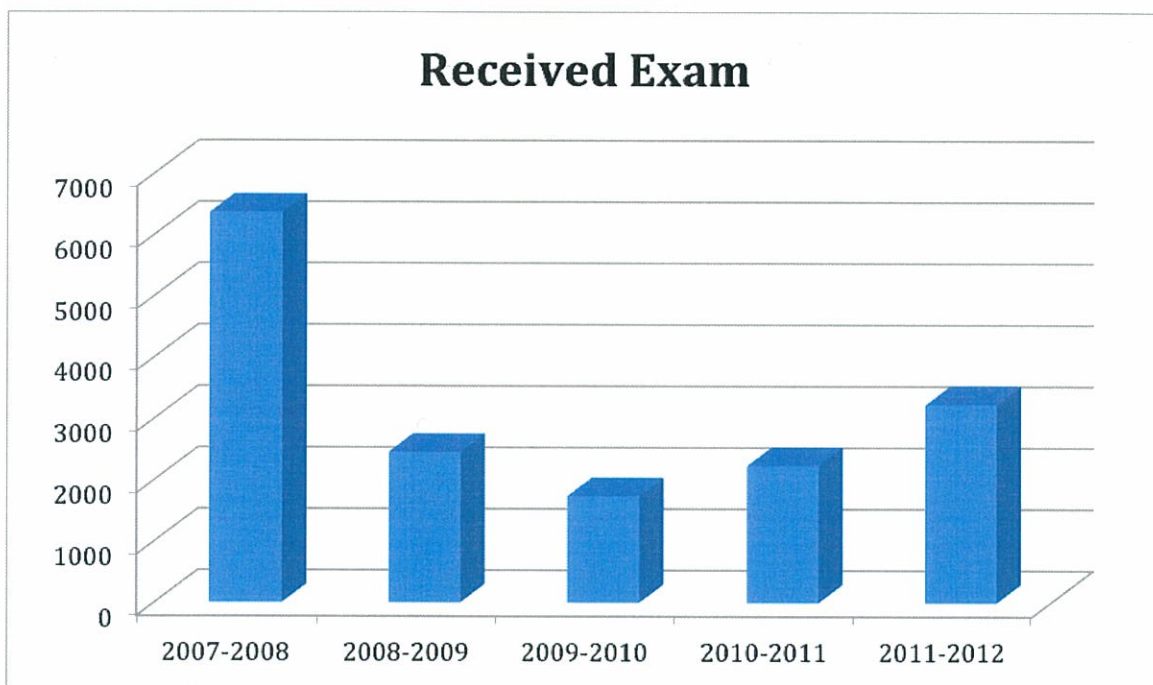
Grade	Screened	Referred	Received Exam	Confirmed Difficulty	Confirmed Normal
Pre-kindergarten	4,829	121	19	10	9
Kindergarten	25,571	987	258	192	66
First	26,132	1,186	300	256	44
Second	25,589	1,162	288	249	39
Fourth	26,465	1,478	305	280	25
Sixth	26,432	1,875	322	292	30
Eighth	24,387	1,809	246	233	13
TOTALS	159,405	8,618	1,738	1,512	226

Vision Screenings, Fall Semester, 2008-2009

Grade	Screened	Referred	Received Exam	Confirmed Difficulty	Confirmed Normal
Pre-kindergarten	5,621	181	51	24	27
Kindergarten	32,051	1,214	329	268	61
First	32,230	1,564	434	365	69
Second	32,121	1,664	428	385	43
Fourth	32,118	2,115	526	478	48
Sixth	30,314	2,120	420	400	20
Eighth	27,089	1,633	266	251	15
TOTALS	191,544	10,491	2,454	2,171	283

Vision Screenings, Fall semester 2007-2008

Grade	Screened	Referred	Received Exam
Pre-kindergarten	7,956	305	137
Kindergarten	35,912	2,469	914
First	35,836	2,876	1,038
Second	34,604	2,983	1,121
Fourth	34,810	3,413	1,228
Sixth	32,654	3,288	1,286
Eighth	32,931	2,951	763
TOTALS	185,063	18,285	5,724



Students Referred who Received an Exam

