

A Report of Vision Screenings
In
Arkansas Public and Charter Schools
School Year 2014-2015

As required by Act 1438 of 2005

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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. 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 students' vision screening results into the Arkansas Public School Computer Network (APSCN). This data is compiled and reported to the State School Nurse Consultant.

School Year 2014-2015

Overall. Students receiving a vision screening in the required grades (pre-K, K, 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 and all transfers) numbered 246,428. Referrals to an eye doctor numbered 26,317 students (11%) of which 10,767 students (41%) actually reported to the school nurse they received an exam. Of these students receiving an exam, 9,370 (87%) were identified as having a vision difficulty confirmed by an eye doctor.

Pre-Kindergarten. There were 7,575 Pre-kindergarten students who received a vision screening at school. Of these, there were 450 students (6%) referred to an eye doctor. Two hundred twenty-two students (49%) actually reported to the school nurse they had received an eye exam and 162 students (73%) had a vision difficulty confirmed by an eye doctor.

Kindergarten. Thirty-six thousand four hundred ninety-two Kindergarten students received a vision screening. There were 3,289 students (9%) referred to an eye doctor for an exam. Of these referrals, 1,599 students (49%) actually reported to the school nurse they received an eye exam and 1,302 students (81%) had a vision difficulty confirmed by an eye doctor.

First Grade. There were 37,247 first-grade students who received a vision screening. Of these, there were 3,803 students (10%) referred to an eye doctor for an exam. One thousand six hundred thirty-eight students (43%) actually reported to the school nurse they received an eye exam and 1,368 students (84%) had a vision difficulty confirmed by an eye doctor.

Second Grade. There were 36,607 second-grade students who received a vision screening. Of those screened, 3,769 students (10%) were referred to an eye doctor for an exam. One thousand six hundred twenty-two students (43%) actually reported to the school nurse they received an exam and 1,408 students (87%) had a vision difficulty confirmed by an eye doctor.

Fourth Grade. Thirty-four thousand thirty-two fourth-grade students received a vision screening. There were 3,938 students (12%) referred to an eye doctor for an exam. One thousand six hundred seven students (41%) actually reported to the school nurse they received an exam and 1,446 students (90%) had a vision difficulty confirmed by an eye doctor.

Sixth Grade. There were 33,484 sixth-grade students who received a vision screening. Of these, 4,038 students (12%) were referred to an eye doctor for an exam. One thousand four hundred thirty-nine students (36%) actually reported to the school nurse they received an exam and 1,322 students (92%) had a vision difficulty confirmed by an eye doctor.

Eighth Grade. Thirty-three thousand four hundred eighty-one eighth-grade students received a vision screening. There were 3,449 students (10%) who were referred to an eye doctor for an exam. One thousand one hundred eighty students (34%) actually reported to the school nurse they received an exam and 1,055 students (89%) had a vision difficulty confirmed 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 twelve were 246,428. That is an additional 27,510 students screened that were not previously reported in the above grades. As a result of these extra screenings, an additional 3,581 students (13%) were referred to an eye doctor. Of these referrals, 1,460 students (41%) reported to the school nurse they received an exam by an eye doctor. As a result, 1,307 students (90%) reported a vision difficulty confirmed 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 at school 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.

Vision Screenings, 2014-2015

Grade	Screened	Referred	Received Exam	Confirmed Difficulty	Confirmed Normal
Pre-kindergarten	7,575	450	222	162	60
Kindergarten	36,492	3,289	1,599	1,302	297
First	37,247	3,803	1,638	1,368	270
Second	36,607	3,769	1,622	1,408	214
Fourth	34,032	3,938	1,607	1,446	161
Sixth	33,484	4,038	1,439	1,322	117
Eighth	33,481	3,449	1,180	1,055	125
TOTALS	218,918	22,736	9,307	8,063	1,244

Vision Screenings, 2013-2014

Grade	Screened	Referred	Received Exam	Confirmed Difficulty	Confirmed Normal
Pre-kindergarten	7,652	613	336	254	82
Kindergarten	37,516	2,762	1,364	1,107	257
First	37,385	3,322	1,605	1,375	230
Second	34,438	3,115	1,558	1,317	241
Fourth	34,471	3,644	1,715	1,452	263
Sixth	34,120	3,933	1,585	1,466	119
Eighth	33,969	3,674	1,426	1,339	87
TOTALS	219,551	21,063	9,589	8,310	1,279

Vision Screenings 5 Year Comparison

	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
Referred	18,560	19,719	20,311	21,063	22,736
Received Exam	9,242	9,598	9,497	9,589	9,307
Confirmed Difficulty	8,136	8,345	8,254	8,310	8,063