

Annual Summary Report of Vision Screenings in

Arkansas Public and Charter Schools

School Year 2021-2022

As required by A.C.A §6-18-1803

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Vision Summary Report for 2021-2022

The vision screening for school-age children in Arkansas public and charter schools includes Pre-K (4-year-old), K, 1, 2, 4, 6, and 8 grades, any transfer student, and students suspected of having a vision concern by a parent, teacher, or other school personnel. Only school nurses certified for conducting vision screenings in the school may perform the vision screening procedure as mandated by A.C.A §6-18-1501. If an optometrist or ophthalmologist has evaluated a child in the last six months and documentation is provided to the district, a screening is not required.

In the 2021-2022 school year, Arkansas school nurses screened 239,182 students of which 28,411(12%) were referred for follow-up. Of those referred, only 7,744 (28%) students received a follow-up exam and 6,905 (90%) were confirmed to have difficulty and received treatment. There were 1,265 virtual students who did not receive a vision screening and 290 parents refused the vision screening for their child. *(Refer to Table 1: 2021-2022 Vision Screening Summary)*

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. Access to care remains to be the key component for the low numbers of students receiving a comprehensive eye and vision exam follow-up.

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

- [VSP Eyes of Hope - National Association of School Nurses \(nasn.org\)](https://www.nasn.org)
- [Eyes of a Champion | Brandon Burlsworth Foundation](#)
- Rural Ophthalmology and Optometry Treatment & Screening (ROOTS) Inc.- services in central area on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- [A Lifetime of Healthy Vision - Prevent Blindness](#)
- [Local Lions Club International](https://www.lionsclub.org)
- [Eye Screening for Children - American Academy of Ophthalmology \(aao.org\)](https://www.aao.org)
- [Changing Life through Lenses™](#)
- Referral to the school-based health center, if available [SBHC locations 2010-2020 \(arkansas.gov\)](#)

To access more detailed student vision data visit [ADE My School Info - Search \(arkansas.gov\)](#)

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

Table1: 2021-2022 Vision Screening Summary

| Grades | Total Screened | Use of an Auto-Refractor | Referred for F/U | Received Exam | Confirmed Abnormal/Needed Treatment and/or Lens | Confirmed Normal/No Treatment and/or Lens | Virtual Students-No Screening | Parent Refused Screening |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------------------|------------------|---------------|---|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Pre-Kindergarten | 7999 | 2797 | 756 | 261 | 227 | 34 | 10 | 3 |
| Kindergarten | 35411 | 5166 | 3961 | 1270 | 1104 | 166 | 108 | 35 |
| 1st Grade | 34126 | 4268 | 3994 | 1177 | 1026 | 151 | 133 | 33 |
| 2nd Grade | 33966 | 2816 | 4046 | 1187 | 1060 | 127 | 151 | 17 |
| 3rd Grade | 5982 | 617 | 877 | 285 | 269 | 16 | 15 | 5 |
| 4th Grade | 34132 | 2430 | 4147 | 1197 | 1055 | 142 | 209 | 39 |
| 5th Grade | 4754 | 654 | 802 | 248 | 231 | 17 | 15 | 3 |
| 6th Grade | 34342 | 1735 | 4036 | 936 | 841 | 95 | 226 | 54 |
| 7th Grade | 3441 | 105 | 615 | 171 | 153 | 18 | 19 | 1 |
| 8th Grade | 35556 | 1308 | 3979 | 726 | 669 | 57 | 259 | 76 |
| 9th Grade | 2917 | 86 | 394 | 92 | 86 | 6 | 22 | 5 |
| 10th Grade | 3232 | 53 | 401 | 93 | 90 | 3 | 47 | 8 |
| 11th Grade | 1912 | 29 | 237 | 63 | 58 | 5 | 20 | 5 |
| 12th Grade | 1374 | 22 | 157 | 35 | 33 | 2 | 30 | 6 |
| Non-graded Grades | 38 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 239182 | 22090 | 28411 | 7744 | 6905 | 839 | 1265 | 290 |