



STUDENT HEALTH SCREENINGS

The Pennsylvania Department of Health requires that every child of school age attending public or non-public schools must be provided with various health screenings. Listed below is a schedule for the required screenings.

Vision Screening

The purpose of a school vision screening program is to identify students with visual impairments. Visual problems can and do affect the educational, social and emotional development of children. Early detection of vision problems assures the child of the opportunity of taking the best advantage of his/her educational opportunities.

Ninety percent of all information is transferred to the brain via the eyes. Most vision problems are correctable, at least to some degree. Impaired vision is most damaging in primary grades because it is at these grade levels that the foundations for learning are taught. Those children with vision loss severe enough to require special educational opportunities must be identified early if they are to be helped.

Although it is recommended that every child have an eye examination very early in life, vision screenings continue to provide an important tool in the early detection of vision disorders in the pediatric population. However, the opportunity for vision screenings is not always afforded to every child in the early years of life. As attendance at school is mandated for all children in Pennsylvania, the school setting provides an accessible place where children may have their vision screened. It is possible for children in Pennsylvania as young as four to have their vision screened if they attend kindergarten.

Recognizing the above statements, vision screening has been rightly mandated for Pennsylvania school age children since 1957.

Students are screened annually in all grades.

Results of vision screening will be provided annually to the student's parent or guardian.

The most important aspect of the screening program is referral with follow-up. The child who fails the screening should receive a comprehensive eye examination by an eye care specialist.

The School Nurse is required by law to follow-up with parents to ensure the student has received follow-up care by an appropriate medical provider.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact Mrs. Tina Vojtko, RN at 820-4070, extension 313.