



Commissioner's Memo
10/16/2017

Vision Screening Instrument Update

Memo Information

Memo Number **LS-18-027**

Memo Date 10/16/2017

Memo Type Regulatory

Unit Learning Services

Regulatory Authority A.C.A §6-18-1501

Response Required NO

Attention Federal Programs; Superintendents; Principals

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Memo Reference

No references available.

Memo Text

According to Ark. Code Ann. §6-18-1501, the Arkansas Commission on Eye and Vision Care of School Age Children and the Department of Education evaluate and approve the tests, procedures, equipment, and instrument requirements used in screening school-age children.

The vision screening requirements for school-age children in Arkansas public and charter schools include grades Pre-K (4 year old), K, 1, 2, 4, 6, and 8, any transfer student, or students suspected of having a vision 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 Ark. Code Ann. §6-18-1501. If a child has been evaluated by an optometrist or ophthalmologist in the last six (6) months and documentation is provided to the district, a screening is not required.

The Arkansas Department of Education, in consultation with the Arkansas Commission on Eye and Vision Care, recommend an auto refractor instrument be used as an additional resource to perform vision screening tests beyond state requirements in certain circumstances.

An Arkansas public or charter school may utilize an automated testing instrument to conduct the required vision screening test for Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, 1st grade, Special Health Care Needs Students, and those not capable of using the standard method required by law given the automated testing instrument and circumstances meet the following criteria:

- The instrument must check distance vision and both lateral and vertical muscle balance. The other tests required by law must be completed using the standard screening methods, if possible;

The districts who choose to utilize an automated testing instrument to conduct the vision screening, must use the following protocol:

- If students fail with the automated instrument they must be re-screened with the standard school screening method when possible;
- When a referral is made using the automated instrument, it must be entered into the eSchool data reporting system; and
- The screening printout/reading of the automated instrument shall not be given to the parent.

Please refer to the attachment:

Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Eye and Vision Screening Report in Arkansas Public Schools

Questions regarding approved instruments should be directed to Arkansas Department of Education Office of School Health Services, State School Nurse Consultant, Cheria Lindsey at 501-683-3604.

Attachments

- [Department_of_Education_Rules_Governing_Eye_and_Vsion_Screening.pdf](#)