



DATE: November 27, 2023

TO: Principals and Superintendents of all Michigan Public, Private and Parochial Schools

FROM: Dr. Rachel Schumann, Vision Program Coordinator Jennifer Dakers, M.A., CC-A, Hearing Program Coordinator

SUBJECT: Hearing and Vision Screening for Kindergarten Entrants



The screening of children’s hearing and vision prior to the start of kindergarten is required in Michigan. The following laws mandate the screening, confirmation of screening, and the reporting of vision screenings.

Public Health Code Act 368 of 1978, Section 9307 states that “a parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis applying to have a child registered for the first time in a kindergarten or first grade in a school in this state **shall present to school officials, at the time of registration or not later than the first day of school,** a certificate of **hearing and vision testing or screening,** or statements of exception under Section 9311”.

The Revised School Code (Act 451 of 1976, section 380.1177) requires that parents of children entering kindergarten **present a statement to school officials** confirming that they have received the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Vision Screening **OR** a statement, signed by a licensed eye care practitioner (**ophthalmologist**

or optometrist), or medical/osteopathic physician indicating that a child's eyes have been examined at least once after age three and **before initial school entry** may also be presented. **School officials are required to enter vision screening data into the MCIR/SIRS system** for all kindergarten new entrants by November 1 of each year.

Please note the following points regarding Kindergarten Hearing and Vision Screening in Michigan:

- **Parents** are responsible for getting their child's hearing and vision screened prior to the first day of kindergarten
- **Schools** facilitate the screenings by communicating the requirement to parents
- **Local public health departments** offer free screenings for all children in their service area
- Schools can facilitate the screenings by including the local health department screening staff during Roundups or registration days, if available
- Vision screening statements from the local health department, a licensed eye care practitioner (**ophthalmologist or optometrist**) or medical/osteopathic physician are acceptable
- Hearing screening statements from the local health department, primary care provider, or pediatrician are acceptable
- Screenings are available at no charge to families through your local health department
- If possible, screenings should take place no more than 6 months prior to the start of school
- Students should be allowed access to school even if the parent did not have the screening completed. Parents should have the screening completed within the first week of school
- **School officials** enter the vision screenings onto the general immunization entry screen in MCIR no later than November 1 of each school year
- November 1 is the deadline to report that the screenings have been completed
- A separate report to MDHHS is no longer required
- Schools and screening sites should ensure the following when scheduling their screening day:
 - Have a quiet room with table, appropriate chairs for either preschool or school-age screening, adequate space, outlets, and air flow, etc. Hearing screenings must be conducted in a quiet environment
 - Screenings should never be conducted in bathrooms or rooms where other events are taking place or where unsafe conditions exist
 - Observers (including parents) must not communicate with children



during the screening to prevent leading responses which can result in inaccurate test results.

- Failure to ensure the above necessities will result in being asked to reschedule the screening date

If you, or your support personnel responsible for entering vision screening data, have questions regarding this requirement, please contact your local health department's Hearing and Vision Screening Program or you may contact the following MDHHS Program Coordinators:

Dr. Rachel Schumann, Vision Program, schumannr@michigan.gov (517-512-0224) Jennifer Dakers, M.A., CCC-A, Hearing Program, dakersj@michigan.gov (517-335-8353)

On behalf of the children of Michigan, many thanks for helping ensure that all Michigan children have good hearing and vision as they begin their journey to success in learning and life.

MDHHS/Vision
Program Revised:
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