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**State
Mandated
School Eye
Exam and
Vision
Screening Laws**

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State	Law
Alabama	Code 16-29-1 (1965): The Department of Education and the State Board of Health shall in conjunction arrange for the examination of each and every child attending the public schools of this state for any physical defects of any kind, including diseases of the eye. The county superintendent of education shall arrange with the county health officer a schedule of dates for this examination of the children in the public schools under his supervision, and the city superintendent of schools shall make the schedule for the schools under his supervision.
Alaska	Alaska Statute §14.30.127 (1982): Requires a vision screening examination be given to each child entering the school system and at regular intervals specified by the district. The Department of Health and Social Services must set standards for the examination, train and certify public health nurses and school employees to administer the examination, assist with referring students who may need professional services, and assist with the maintenance and repair of screening equipment.
Arizona	No vision screening requirement.
Arkansas	Code 6-18-1501 (2005), Act 1438: Requires all children in grades pre-kindergarten to 2nd, 4th, 6th and 8th be given eye and vision tests. Transfer students must be screened as well. 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 two times per year.
California	Education Code 49452: The governing board of any school district shall, subject to Section 49451, provide for the testing of the sight and hearing of each pupil enrolled in the schools of the district. The test shall be adequate in nature and shall be given only by duly qualified supervisors of health employed by the district; or by certificated employees of the district or of the county superintendent of schools who possess the qualifications prescribed by the Commission for Teacher Preparation and Licensing; or by contract with an agency duly authorized to perform those services by the county superintendent of schools of the county in which the district is located, under guidelines established by the State Board of Education; or accredited schools or colleges of optometry, osteopathic medicine, or medicine. The records of the tests shall serve as evidence of the need of the pupils for the educational facilities provided physically handicapped individuals. The equipment necessary to conduct the tests may be purchased or rented by governing boards of school districts.
California (continued)	Education Code 49455: Upon first enrollment in a California school district of a child at a California elementary school, and at least every third year thereafter until the child has completed the eighth grade, the child's vision shall be appraised by the school nurse or other authorized person under Section 49452. This evaluation shall include tests for visual acuity and color vision; however, color vision shall be appraised once and only on male children, and the results of the appraisal shall be entered in the health record of the pupil. Color vision appraisal need not begin until the male pupil has reached the first grade. Gross external observation of the child's eyes, visual performance, and perception shall be done by the school nurse and the classroom teacher. The evaluation may be waived, if the child's parents present a certificate from a physician and surgeon or an optometrist setting out the results of a determination of the child's vision, including visual acuity and color vision. Any parent/guardian may object to the evaluation on religious grounds.

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Colorado	Statute 22-1-116 (1981): requires all children in public preschool and grades kindergarten to third, 5th, 7th and 9th grades to be referred for vision testing. Appropriate educational or early intervention referrals shall be made if the child is suspected of having an educationally significant vision loss and parents shall be informed of any need for further medical evaluation.
Connecticut	Statute Chapter 169, Section 10-214 (1996): Each local or regional board of education shall provide annually to each pupil in kindergarten, grades one to six, inclusive, and grade nine, a vision screening, using a Snellen chart, or equivalent screening. The superintendent of schools shall give written notice to the parent or guardian of each pupil who is found to have any defect of vision or disease of the eyes, with a brief statement describing such defect or disease. Test results or treatment provided as a result of the screenings pursuant to this section shall be recorded on forms supplied by the State Board of Education.
Delaware	Administrative Code 14:815 (2003): Requires each public school student in kindergarten and in grades 2nd, 4th, 7th and grades 9 or 10 to receive a vision screening by January 15. New students, students referred by a teacher or administrator, and students considered for special education must be screened as well. All students in drivers' education classes shall have a vision screening within a year prior to their in-car driving hours.
Florida	Statute 381.0056(5) (2002): Requires school health services plans to include vision screenings. Each county health department shall develop, jointly with the district school board and the local school health advisory committee, a school health services plan; and the plan must include, at a minimum, provisions for vision screening. There must be provisions for referral and follow-up of suspected or confirmed health problems by the local county health department, consultation with the student's parent or guardian regarding the need for health attention, maintenance of records on incidents of health problems, corrective measures taken, and other information.
Georgia	Georgia Law (Code Section 20-2-770): The Department of Human Resources is authorized and directed, in cooperation with the State Board of Education, to promulgate rules and regulations to provide for an eye examination for each student entering the first grade in the public schools of this state and at such other times as such rules and regulations shall provide. Such rules and regulations shall provide procedures for local boards of health to provide for such examinations and screenings and for the issuance of a certificate to the parent or parents of children entering the first grade indicating that such examinations and screenings have been made, and such certificates shall be turned in to the school officials at the time of enrollment. Such rules and regulations shall further provide that the examinations and screenings required in this Code section may be made by private practitioners and authorize the certification provided for in this Code section by such private practitioners.
Hawaii	No vision screening requirement.
Idaho	No vision screening requirement.

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Illinois	2007 Law (SB 641): Requires children enrolling for the first time in a public, private or parochial school on or after January 1, 2008, to have an eye examination performed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist by October 15 of the school year. The school may hold a child's report card if the child fails to present proof of exam by October 15. Every school shall report to the State Board of Education by June 30 the number of children who have received the required eye exam, of those who have not received the eye exam, the number of children exempt from the exam, the number of children who received a waiver and the number of children in noncompliance with the eye exam requirement. Parents or legal guardians who object to eye exams on religious grounds may present a signed statement of objection to the local school.
Indiana	511 IAC 4-2-1 (1984): Every school corporation shall conduct an annual visual test of children when they enroll in either kindergarten or grade 1 unless an eye care professional requests, in writing, that the child not be tested. Vision tests consist of testing for vision acuity, refractive error, ocular health, and binocular coordination. A school corporation shall recommend students who fail the screenings for further examination. IC 20-34-3-12: The governing body of each school corporation shall conduct: (1) an annual vision test, using the modified clinical technique, of each student upon the student's enrollment in either kindergarten or grade 1; and (2) an annual screening test of the visual acuity of each student enrolled in or transferred to grade 3 and grade 8 and of all other students suspected of having a visual defect. Records of all tests shall be made and continuously maintained by the school corporation to provide information useful in protecting, promoting, and maintaining the health of students. The state department of health and the state board shall adopt joint rules concerning vision testing equipment, qualifications of visual screening procedures, and criteria for failure and referral in the screening tests based on accepted medical practice and standards.
Iowa	281 IAC 41.83(3) (1999): Requires schools to do an initial evaluation of each student's educational needs, which includes a vision screening, prior to enrollment in <i>special education</i> .
Kansas	Statute 72-5205 (1959): Requires each school board to provide basic vision screening without charge to every pupil not less than once every two years. The results of the test and, if necessary, the desirability of examination by a qualified physician, ophthalmologist or optometrist shall be reported to the parents or guardians of such pupils. The requirements of this subsection shall not apply to a pupil who has had a basic vision screening examination within six months prior to the provision of basic vision screening in the school in which the pupil is enrolled. Each pupil needing assistance in achieving mastery of basic reading, writing and mathematics skills shall be encouraged to obtain an eye examination by an optometrist or ophthalmologist to determine if the pupil suffers from conditions which impair the ability to read. Expense for such examination, if not reimbursed through Medicaid, Healthwave, private insurance or other governmental or private program, shall be the responsibility of the pupil's parent or guardian.
Kentucky	704 KAR 4:020 (2000): Each local board of education must require a preventative health care examination one year prior to a child seeking admission to school. The examination includes a vision screening. KRS 156.160 (2004): A vision examination by an optometrist or ophthalmologist must be submitted to the school no later than January 1 of the first year that a three, four, five, or six year-old child is enrolled in public school, public preschool, or a Head Start Program.

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State	Law
Louisiana	RS 17:391.11 (1989): Requires every child entering kindergarten for the first time to be given a nationally recognized readiness screening that measures proficiency in vision. RS 17:2112 (2003): Requires every local school board to test the sight (including color screening in first grade) during the first semester of the school year or within 30 days of admission into school. The school board shall keep a record of such examination, shall be required to follow up on the deficiencies within sixty days, and shall notify in writing the parent or tutor of every pupil found to have any defect of sight. A written report of all such examinations shall be made to the state superintendent of education but shall not be made available to the public.
Maine	Statute Title 20-A §6451 (2003): Requires school districts to periodically screen for sight defects.
Maryland	Code §7-404 (1996): Requires each county board or county health department to provide vision screenings for all students in the year of school entry into the system, into 4th grade, 5th grade, or 6th grade and into 9th grade. The results of the screenings shall be made a part of the permanent record file of the student, given to parents of any students who fails a screening and reported to the county board or county health department.
Massachusetts	105 CMR 200.400 (1994): Requires all public school students to have their vision tested annually. The vision of each child shall be tested by means of the Massachusetts Vision Test or other similar method approved by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Disabilities and defects found on health appraisal of an individual child shall be brought to the attention of the family. The school or health department shall encourage the family to take the child with physical defects to the family physician or other source of care.
Michigan	MCL §380.1177 (2000): Requires that children enrolling in kindergarten must provide evidence that their vision has been tested once since the age of 3.
Minnesota	No vision screening requirement: The Minnesota Department of Health provides recommendations to the Minnesota Department of Education for Early Childhood Screening and School age screening and to the Minnesota Department of Human Services for Child and Teen Checkups training.
Mississippi	Code §41-79-5 (2000): Requires school nurse intervention services to provide vision screening services.
Missouri	2007 Law (SB 16): Beginning July 1, 2008, every child enrolling in kindergarten or first grade in a public school must have one comprehensive vision examination performed by a state-licensed optometrist or physician. Evidence of the child's eye examination must be given to the school no later than January 1 and shall include: 1) Complete case history; 2) Visual acuity at distance (aided and unaided); 3) External examination and internal examination (ophthalmoscope examination); 4) Subjective refraction to best visual acuity. Also beginning July 1, 2008, all school districts must conduct an eye screening for each student once before the completion of first and third grades. These screenings shall be conducted by a school nurse or other trained and qualified employee. Parents/guardians of students who fail a screening will be notified that the student should receive a complete eye examination. A Children's Vision Commission, appointed by the Governor, is established; the Commission shall determine the eye screening test and will design and coordinate the training programs for school staff who will be able to conduct the required screening.

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State	Law
Missouri (continued)	The Commission will conduct a pilot project to track the results of eye screenings vs. eye examinations based on the reports submitted by school districts to the department of health and senior services. The Commission shall submit a report to the general assembly by December 31, 2011 detailing the results and findings of the study, total number of screenings and exams, number of students who received follow-up care and results of those examinations. The department of health and senior services shall make a reasonable accommodation for public review and inspection of the data collected as part of the eye screening pilot project.
Montana	No vision screening requirement.
Nebraska	Statute 79-248 (1996): Requires that a student be "carefully inspected" to identify whether or not he/she suffers from defective sight. Section 79-214: For school year 2006-07 and each school year thereafter, a visual evaluation by a physician, a physician assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse, or an optometrist within six months prior to the entrance of a child into the beginner grade or, in the case of a transfer from out of state, to any other grade of the local school, which consists of testing for amblyopia, strabismus, and internal and external eye health, with testing sufficient to determine visual acuity, except that no such physical examination or visual evaluation shall be required of any child whose parent or guardian objects in writing. The cost of such physical examination and visual evaluation shall be borne by the parent or guardian of each child who is examined.
Nevada	NRS 392.420 (2001): Requires schools to provide tests for visual problems in at least two grades of elementary school, one grade of middle school and one grade of high school. The school authorities shall notify the parents or guardian of any child who is found or believed to have a visual problem and shall recommend that appropriate medical attention be secured to correct it.
New Hampshire	No vision screening requirement.
New Jersey	N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2.: Requires a vision screening of all students as part of required student medical examinations. The exam is required three times during the child's K-12 schooling: once by the end of third grade, once by the end of sixth grade and once more prior to the end of twelfth grade. The first test focuses on visual acuity but does not test for conditions such as nisopmetropia, binocular coordination, focusing skills, ocular motor efficiency or fixation disparity.
New Mexico	2007 Law (HB 1283): Requires that sutdents in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, 1, 3 and transfer/new students receive a vison screening in school. Schools shall notify parents/guardians if a student needs further evaluation and provide information on the availability of funds from a Save Our Children's Sight Fund (created by this bill) for a comprehensive eye examination, lenses or eyeglasses. The Save our Children's Sight Fund shall consist of appropriations, contributions, grants and statutory revenues directed to the fund. Drivers will have a check-off option to contribute to the Fund when registering their vehicles.

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State	Law
New York	Education Law §905: The director of school health services of each school district in this state that is required to provide school health services, or the health department or agency otherwise responsible to provide such services, shall conduct screening examinations of vision of all students at such times and as defined in the regulations of the commissioner, and at any time deemed necessary. In addition to any vision screening examinations otherwise required, all students who enroll in a school of this state shall be tested for color perception, distance acuity and near vision within six months of admission to the school, or by such other date as may be prescribed in the regulations of the commissioner. The results of any such vision screening examinations shall be in writing and shall be made available to the student's parent or person in parental relation and to any teacher of the student within the school while the student is enrolled in the school, and shall be kept in a permanent file of the school.
North Carolina	Statute §130A-440.1: Every child entering kindergarten in public schools, beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, shall obtain vision screening in accordance with vision screening standards adopted by the Governor's Commission on Early Childhood Vision Care (Commission). Within 180 days of the start of the school year, the parent of the child shall present to the school principal or the principal's designee certification that the child has, within the past 12 months, obtained vision screening from a licensed physician, optometrist, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, registered nurse, orthoptist, or a vision screener certified by Prevent Blindness North Carolina, or a comprehensive eye examination performed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist. Vision screeners shall provide each parent in writing the results of the vision screening on forms bearing the signature of the provider and supplied by the Commission. The provider shall orally communicate this information to the parent and take reasonable steps to ensure that the parent understands the information communicated. A comprehensive eye examination is re
North Dakota	No vision screening requirement.
Ohio	ORC §3313.673 (1990): Requires that kindergarten or first grade students be screened for vision and for any development disorders prior to November 1st of the school year in which they are enrolled. If the results of any screening reveal the possibility of special learning needs, the board of education of the school district shall conduct further assessment. The board may request that parents obtain screenings on their own, in which case the board must provide parents with information on obtaining screening services. Any parent requested to obtain screening services may sign a written statement that he does not wish to have his child receive screening. ORC §3313.69 (1995): Requires a test to determine the existence of vision defects in school children. The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is given the authority by the Ohio Revised Code to set the hearing and vision screening requirements for school children. ODH mandates vision screenings for 3rd, 5th, 7th and 9th grade students as well.
Ohio (continued)	ORC §3323.19: Requires eye examinations for students with disabilities. Within three months after a student identified with disabilities begins receiving services for the first time under an individualized education program, the school district in which that student is enrolled shall require the student to undergo a comprehensive eye examination performed either by an optometrist or by a physician who is comprehensively trained and educated in the treatment of the human eye, eye disease, or comprehensive vision services, unless the student underwent such an examination within the nine-month period immediately prior to being identified with disabilities.

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State	Law
Oklahoma	§70-1210.284: Beginning in the 2007-08 school year, each student enrolled in kindergarten at a public school shall provide certification to school personnel that the student passed a vision screening within the previous 12 months or during the school year. Screenings shall be conducted by personnel listed on the statewide registry maintained by the State Department of Health. Beginning in the 2007-08 school year, each student enrolled in first or third grade at a public school shall provide within 30 days of the beginning of the school year certification to school personnel that the student passed a vision screening within the previous 12 months. The parent or guardian of each student who receives a vision screening shall receive notification that a vision screening is not the equivalent of a comprehensive eye exam. Students who fail a screening must have a comprehensive eye examination performed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist. The ophthalmologist or optometrist shall forward a written report of the results of the eye examination to the student's school, parent/guardian, and primary health care provider.
Oregon	OAR 581-022-0705 (1996): Requires school districts to provide vision screening. The Oregon Department of Education updated its School Health Services Manual in 2003 and addressed school vision screenings. Suggested grades to screen: Preschool (ages 3-5); kindergarten; and grades 1, 2, or 3; 4 or 5; 7 or 8; and 10 or 11 and first entry into school. Vision screening programs should be conducted under the direction of the school nurse. The supervising professional has the responsibility for training and monitoring screening activities. School staff and parent volunteers can be trained to provide screening. Students having results deviant from the norm in the first screening must be referred to the school nurse for a re-screen in the same session or at a later time within one month. When the student fails after re-instruction and re-screening, s/he must be referred to an appropriate health care provider for evaluation. Results of all screenings and testing should be shared with parents or guardians. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to secure and fund the visual evaluation.
Pennsylvania	028 PA Code §23.1 (1959), per 24 P.S. §14-1402 (1966): Requires that each child be given a vision test annually.
Rhode Island	Statute §16-21-14.1 (2006): Requires a vision screening upon entering kindergarten or within 30 days of the start of the school year. Section 9.0 of the Rules and Regulations for School Health requires that each student receive a vision screening at a minimum upon school entry and in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th and 9th grades. Regular reporting to the Departments of Health and Education on the results of examinations shall be made in a manner and at such intervals as prescribed from time to time in directives issued by the Director of Health or the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. Parents of those students who fail to meet the minimal visual requirements on a second screening shall be notified in order to arrange for a comprehensive vision examination by an eye care provider. Students identified with a visual impairment shall be referred for specialized services and follow-up.
South Carolina	No vision screening requirement.
South Dakota	No vision screening requirement.
Tennessee	No vision screening requirement.

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State	Law
Texas	Chapter 36, Texas Health and Safety Code: Requires all children enrolled for the first time in any public, private, parochial, or denominational school or in a Department of Family and Protective Services licensed child-care facility, or who meet certain grade criteria, be screened or have a professional vision examination. All first-time entrants into a child care facility/school must be screened for vision problems within 120 days of enrollment or by the end of the first semester. First, 3rd, 5th, and 7th graders may be screened anytime during the school year before June 30th. The Dept. of State Health Services also recommends that the following be given vision screenings: transfer students without current vision records; students returning from an absence resulting from some communicable disease; students referred by teachers, parents, or others; and children who repeat a grade and who have not been screened within the last year. The M-62 vision screening annual report is a report of all the screening activities of a facility throughout the school year.
Texas (continued)	Preschools/schools must submit the M-62 to the Dept. of State Health Services by June 30th of each year. The M-62 should contain completed screening and follow-up information for all children screened and/or evaluated within the school year and whether or not every child referred was seen by an eye care specialist. The outcome of the eye care specialist's evaluations should be returned to the child care facility or the school.
Utah	Code 53A-11-201 (1996): Requires each local school board to implement rules as prescribed by the Department of Health for vision examinations of students attending the district's schools. The school shall notify, in writing, a student's parent or guardian of any impairment disclosed by the examinations. Code 53A-11-203 (2001): Requires children entering school under the age of seven to have a vision screening. Each school district also may conduct free vision screening clinics for children aged 3 1/2 to 7. The division shall maintain a central register of children, aged 3-1/2 to seven, who fail vision screening and who are referred for follow-up treatment. The register shall include the name of the child, age or birthdate, address, cause for referral, and follow-up results. Each school district shall report referral follow-up results to the Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, State Office of Education. A licensed health professional providing vision care to private patients may not participate as a screener in free vision screening programs provided by school districts.
Vermont	16 VSA §1422 (1969): Requires that students in grades 1,3,5,7 and 9 or 10 have their vision tested by the school district. Students whose vision appears to be defective should be tested when appropriate. The school district shall keep a record of such tests according to the instructions furnished and to notify in writing the person having legal responsibility for a pupil who is found to have defective vision. The superintendent shall report the results of the vision tests to the commissioner of education.
Virginia	Code §22.1-273 (1995): Requires the principal of each school to ensure the testing of sight of relevant pupils unless it was included as part of the examination required in Code §22.1-270 (2004). The principal shall keep a record of such examinations in accordance with instructions furnished. Whenever a pupil is found to have any defect of vision or a disease of the eyes, the principal shall forthwith notify the parent or guardian, in writing, of such defect or disease. Copies of the report shall be preserved for the use of the Superintendent as he may require.

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State	Law
Washington	RCW 28A.210.020 (1971): Every board of school directors shall have the power, and it shall be its duty to provide for and require screening for the visual acuity of all children attending schools in their districts to ascertain which if any of such children have defects sufficient to retard them in their studies. Visual screening shall be made in accordance with procedures and standards adopted by rule or regulation of the state board of health. Prior to the adoption or revision of such rules or regulations the state board of health shall seek the recommendations of the superintendent of public instruction regarding the administration of visual screening and the qualifications of persons competent to administer such screening.
West Virginia	West Virginia §18-5-17: All children entering public school for the first time in this state shall be given prior to their enrollments screening tests to determine if they might have vision impairments. County boards of education may provide, upon request, such screening tests to all children entering nonpublic school. County boards of education shall conduct these screening tests for all children through the use of trained personnel. Parents or guardians of children who are found to have vision impairments shall be notified of the results of these tests and advised that further diagnosis and treatment of the impairments or disabilities by qualified professional personnel is recommended.
Wisconsin	Statute 118.135 (2001): As of the 2002-2003 school year, each school board and each charter school shall request each pupil entering kindergarten to provide evidence that the pupil has had his or her eyes examined by a [licensed] optometrist or evaluated by a [licensed] physician. Optometrists and physicians are encouraged (but not required) to provide free examinations for those individuals in financial need.
Wyoming	Rule 4362, Chapter VI (2001): Requires the district to provide an organized program that identifies potential and existing health problems through routine vision screenings performed by qualified personnel.