

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR PARENTS
REGARDING NEW VISION EVALUATION REQUIREMENT

New State Law Now Requires Vision Evaluations

Beginning with the 2006-2007 school year, students entering school for the first time, including kindergarteners and transfer students from out of state, will be required to provide proof of a vision evaluation within six months prior to the student's entrance.

The vision evaluation is required to test for amblyopia (lazy eye) and strabismus (misalignment of the eyes), which are two of the most common vision disorders in young children, as well as internal and external eye health and visual acuity. A certificate or form stating results of the evaluation must be signed by an optometrist, physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse.

According to the Nebraska Foundation for Children's Vision, statistics show that 80% or more of all learning during a child's first 12 years depends on vision, yet one of every five children entering kindergarten has an undetected vision disorder significant enough to impact the child's ability to learn. Symptoms of vision problems often are not evident to parents or educators at early ages, the Foundation notes, and young children often cannot self-identify abnormal conditions.

Typical vision screenings test only for distance vision and are not designed to assess many of the common vision disorders in young children. The new state law will now help assure that more students get a broader assessment of conditions that could adversely impact their learning ability.

Source: Nebraska Foundation for Children's Vision (NEchildrensvision.org)

SCHOOL VISION EVALUATION Report Form

A School Vision Evaluation is required for all children **within six months prior to entering** Nebraska schools for the first time (includes beginner grades including Kindergarteners, transfers, and other students new to Nebraska) [Nebraska Revised Statute 79-214]

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

School: _____ Date: _____

Student Status (check one): Beginner Grade Transfer Student from Out of State

REQUIRED TESTS*	Pass	Fail	Recommend Further Evaluation <i>(comments noted below)</i>
Amblyopia	_____	_____	_____
Strabismus	_____	_____	_____
Internal Eye Health	_____	_____	_____
External Eye Health	_____	_____	_____
Visual Acuity			
Right eye @ distance (20 ft.):		20/____	aided/unaided
Left eye @ distance (20 ft.):		20/____	aided/unaided
Right eye @ near (16 in.):		20/____	aided/unaided
Left eye @ near (16 in.):		20/____	aided/unaided

*A vision evaluation consisting of these required tests meets the legal requirements for the State of Nebraska but is not a complete eye examination such as most eye doctors perform.

ADDITIONAL TESTS	Pass	Fail	Recommend Further Evaluation
Eye Alignment at Distance	_____	_____	_____
Eye Alignment at Near	_____	_____	_____
Depth Perception	_____	_____	_____
Color Vision	_____	_____	_____
Focusing Amount	_____	_____	_____
Focusing Flexibility	_____	_____	_____
Focusing Lag (Accuracy)	_____	_____	_____
Convergence (Crossing) Ability	_____	_____	_____
Saccade (Rapid) Eye Movement	_____	_____	_____
Pursuit (Tracking) Eye Movement	_____	_____	_____
Other: _____	_____	_____	_____

COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS: _____

Evaluation performed by: _____ (signature) Date: _____

____ O.D. ____ M.D. ____ P.A. ____ A.P.R.N.

**RESOURCES FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES
WHO MAY QUALIFY FOR FREE OR REDUCED-COST
VISION EVALUATIONS**

1. Medicaid and Kids Connection
Office visits, eye exams and glasses are covered. Local social service offices have details as to eligibility.
2. SIGHT FOR STUDENTS
Provides free exam, discounted eyewear for eligible students from participating optometrists. Check website for details: www.sightforstudents.org
3. Lions Clubs of Nebraska
Clubs located throughout the state provide vision care assistance for needy families. Usually involves referral by teacher, clergy or health professional. Contact local clubs for details.
4. Community health centers and services
Charles Drew Center (Omaha , 402-451-3553), One World (Omaha, 402-734-4110) provide free exams for low income families that qualify. Hope for Vision (402-354-6374) coordinates free or reduced-cost eye exams and glasses through various optometrists' offices throughout Omaha area.
5. Discount plans from health care providers
Many optometrists and other health care providers offer family discounts, package pricing on children's eyewear, and other in-office discounts.
6. Insurance coverages
Many insurance companies cover the cost of an eye exam (Blue Cross/Blue Shield, United Health Care, Coventry, Vision Service Plan, Spectera, etc.). Check with the company as to details of vision care coverage.
7. Employer-based options
 - A. Parents with cafeteria plans, Medical Savings Accounts, Health Savings Accounts, or other flexible spending plans through employers can typically use these accounts to pay for vision exams.
 - B. Vision USA
Low income families with working parent and no vision insurance may qualify for free exams from participating optometrists. Call XXXXXXXXX for eligibility guidelines and information about scheduling appointments.