

It is the legislative intent that beginning with the 2011/2012 school year to assure all children receive vision screening; required follow-up exams when necessary; and that the Department of Health and Department of Education promulgate rules regarding these new sections of law.

NEW SECTION Chapter 135.39D VISION SCREENING

1. All children in grades one (1) and three (3), and all out-of-state transfer students, as well as parent/teacher referrals, shall receive a vision screening provided by the child's school district. Documentation of comprehensive eye examination performed by a licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist within the previous twelve months shall waive the requirement of a vision screening.
2. School program personnel or school health personnel shall obtain or retain documentation of screening results and provide parents with any follow-up recommendations. A child who does not pass the vision screening shall be required to have a comprehensive eye examination performed by a licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist. The parent or guardian of the child shall be responsible for ensuring that the child receives the appropriate follow-up eye examination performed by a licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist and shall provide the school with documentation of the exam within three months. A parent or guardian who fails to furnish the required follow-up documentation shall be notified in writing of the current eye vision requirements set forth in this law, and the Iowa Department of Public Health will also be notified.
3. A child shall not be prohibited from attending school based upon the failure of a parent or guardian to furnish a report of the child's screening or follow up eye examination to the school.
4. Vision screening shall be conducted by an individual, trained in vision screening techniques, within the previous three years. The department of public health shall develop rules regarding training standards. A medical professional or certified vision screener conducting vision screenings for purposes of school certification shall use approved techniques. Such techniques shall follow vision screening protocol that show high degrees of testability and reliability, as scientifically validated through peer review literature and includes appropriate follow up procedures.
5. The department shall adopt rules regarding the requirements of this section. The department shall submit a report to the general assembly by January 1, annually, regarding the results of vision screenings. The first such report, to be submitted by January 1, 2013 shall include an assessment by the department of whether a source of financial assistance for parents would increase compliance with the referrals for eye examinations.