



Children's Vision Commission State of Missouri

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Missouri School Boards'
Association

March 31, 2008

Dear Public School Administrators and School Nurses:

Recently, five of the seven Children's Vision Commission members were appointed. The Commission met on February 20 and has made some decisions related to vision examinations and vision screening requirements for kindergarten, first, and third grade students in the public school system. If you wish to become familiar with the statutes associated with these issues, visit <http://www.moga.mo.gov/statutes/c100-199/1670000194.htm> and <http://www.moga.mo.gov/statutes/c100-199/1670000195.htm>.

Due to the late nature of start, the Commission has determined that through January 2009, only children entering kindergarten or first grade for the very first time will be required to have a comprehensive eye examination. If the child was in kindergarten during the 2007-08 school year, that child will not be required to have a comprehensive eye examination for the 2008-09 school year when entering the first grade. However, if the child did not attend kindergarten in the 2007-08 year, but is entering the first grade in the 2008-09 year, that student is required to have a comprehensive eye examination. In the event that a parent or legal guardian of a child does not want their child to participate in the comprehensive eye exam or the eye screening program, the child shall be excused upon receipt by the appropriate school administrator of a written request. The Commission will make final decisions about what will constitute a comprehensive eye examination and a standard reporting form by July 1, 2008.

The Commission reviewed a statewide report of current vision screening practices and determined thoughtful time will be necessary to standardize screening method(s) and develop a training program. The Commission plans to have the screening method(s) and training program in place for the 2009-10 school year. The Commission recommends districts continue with current screening method(s) and encourages all districts to include a test for binocular vision.

Communications of the Commission's progress on the mandated vision screenings and examinations will be done electronically through the district administrators and school nurses.

Thank you for your patience as we all adapt to the new requirements outlined in state statutes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael C. Frier".

Michael C. Frier, OD, Chair
Children's Vision Commission