



## Missouri's Children's Vision Law

### At a Glance

- Beginning July 1, 2008, all children entering kindergarten or first grade must have a comprehensive eye examination, evidence of which shall be submitted to the school no later than January 1 of the school year.
- Children won't be kept out of school because they lack the eye exam, and every effort will be made to make sure all Missouri's children are ready to learn.
- The Missouri statute calls for the formation of a governor-appointed Children's Vision Commission.
- The Commission will be composed of two optometrists, two ophthalmologists, one school nurse, a representative of the Department of Secondary and Elementary Education, and a representative from the Missouri School Board Association.
- The Commission will establish statewide guidelines for the exams and the reporting process.
- To learn more contact your local optometrist or visit:

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## Vision Matters

Conservative estimates show 10 - 15% of children (8 - 12 million kids) are at risk from an undetected vision impairment, but children whose world has gone fuzzy don't know they aren't seeing like everyone else. Diagnosing their vision problems requires a comprehensive eye examination from a trained eye care professional. Comprehensive eye examinations diagnose:

- Amblyopia ("lazy eye") which affects 5% of children
- Color vision deficiencies (color blindness), which affect 8% of all boys
- Myopia, hyperopia, and astigmatism, three common refractive problems that are easily treated with corrective lenses

**Get your child's eyes checked regularly by an optometrist.**

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