

Proposal for Schools

Vision First Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable and education organization dedicated to educating the public and assisting families in need regarding comprehensive eye and vision examinations and associated eye care. Our mission is to raise the standards of eye care for our children's visual welfare. Our hope is that no child will experience school with an undetected and untreated eye or vision problem.

Vision First Foundation will achieve this goal by implementing these key proposal elements:

- 1.) **Promote "Amy's Law."** (Illinois Public Act 93-0504): *It is required that a child's parent or guardian be given written notification, before a vision screening is conducted, that states: "Vision screening is not a substitute for a complete eye and vision evaluation by an eye doctor. Your child is not required to undergo this vision screening if an optometrist or ophthalmologist has completed and signed a report form indicating that an examination has been administered within the previous 12 months." Parents are encouraged to have their children undergo vision examinations at the same points in time required for health examinations.*
 - Distribute a vision screening disclaimer before any vision screening is conducted.
 - Give parents the choice of an eye examination by an eye doctor in place of a vision screening.
 - Recommend a comprehensive eye and vision examination at the same time registration information is distributed. Include all children in preschool, grade school, high school, transfer students, and children referred for special education services.
- 2.) **Adopt a policy or implement a state law of a required eye examination by an optometrist or ophthalmologist for all children entering kindergarten (or first grade).**
 - An eye examination shall replace any recommended or required vision screening.
 - **IMPORTANT NOTE:** No child shall be excluded from school for non-compliance. Vision First Foundation will assist needy families in fulfilling the eye examination requirement provided the school joined the *Kids Eyes Count Campaign* and is using the Vision First documents.
- 3.) **Improve "follow-up" after a failed vision screening.**
- 4.) **Distribute letters:**
 - Vision Screening Letter
 - Referral Letters "Part One" and "Part Two"
 - Preschool/Grade School/High School Recommendation Letters
 - Kindergarten Requirement Letter
 - Optional Preschool/Grade School/High School Requirement Letters
- 5.) **Distribute report forms, fact sheets, and educational materials:**
 - Preschool and Student Comprehensive Eye and Vision Examination Report
 - Reference Page
 - "Do You Know What's Best for a Child's Eyes?"
 - "The Most Important School Supply"
 - Fact sheets from the "Help! I'm confused!" series