

Vision Screening Provisions for Schools

**Illinois Association of School Boards urges school districts
to comply with required notification provisions
regarding vision screening for students.
(IASB Belief Statement Number 12)**

- 1) Since vision screenings do not diagnose eye and vision problems, every vision screening needs a disclaimer.
 - Illinois law requires written notification be given to a child's parent or guardian before a vision screening is conducted. (IL Public Act 93-0504)
 - All vision screening programs across the nation can benefit from this same law.
- 2) This written notification shall be in the form of a letter. The *Preschool or Student Comprehensive Eye and Vision Examination Report* should accompany the written notification.
 - Distribute Vision Screening Letter.
 - Distribute *Preschool or Student Comprehensive Eye and Vision Examination Report*.
- 3) In addition to a letter, this disclaimer should be included in the school or district handbook, newsletter, school calendar, and at any other time vision screening information is communicated.
 - Include specific grades or ages when children are screened in this notice.
- 4) Students who have a current (within the previous 12 months) vision report form signed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist in their health folder are not required to undergo a vision screening. (IL Public Act 93-0504)
 - Parents shall be given the choice to go directly to the eye doctor for an eye examination in place of a vision screening.
- 5) If an annual report is filed that describes the findings and results of the vision screening program, (e.g., Illinois Department of Public Health Vision Conservation Annual Report), then a separate category should be created on the annual report recording those who have chosen an eye examination directly.
- 6) All completed report forms returned to the school shall be maintained in each child's health folder and shared with the child's teacher and school nurse.
 - A completed Vision First report contains valuable information regarding a child's visual abilities and eye care needs.