



July 5, 2018

Dear Parents,

Ohio revised code (ORC 3313.673) requires a child's screening and assessment data cannot be used to determine eligibility to enter kindergarten. The only criterion for entrance into kindergarten is age eligibility. By November 1 of the school year in which a child is enrolled for the first time, *the child must be screened for vision, hearing, speech and communication, medical problems and any developmental disorders*. If the screening reveals the possibility of potential learning needs, the School/District must provide further assessment. Schools must note that screenings are not intended to diagnose educational disability or to be used for placement procedures. Screening results are helpful in identifying areas of individual development that require further assessment for educational programming, particularly for students who might benefit from early intervention, prevention, acceleration and/or enrichment programs. A parent may sign a statement that they do not wish to have the child screened.

The Children's Hearing and Vision program sets the screening requirements and guidelines for school-based preschool and K-12 schools. The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) sets the requirements for what grades are routinely screened each year; what equipment is acceptable to use; what specific hearing and vision tests are needed to perform the screenings; and the referral criteria. Schools providing medical services are required to screen school-aged students for hearing and vision.

During the month of September we will be assessing your student(s) in the following grades for hearing and vision:

School-aged children shall be screened at six grade levels:

Kindergarten, first, third, fifth, ninth, and eleventh.

Students may be screened in additional grade levels.

In addition, the following students will be screened annually or upon occurrence:

Students new to a school (and not tested within the past 12 months).

Students referred by a teacher or other school personnel.

Students who were referred within the past year with no documented follow-up, regardless of grade.

Students absent during the previous hearing screening.

Students at risk for noise exposure (e.g., band, vocational education, industrial education, automotive mechanics).

Students who request a hearing screening.

Students whose parent/caregiver request a hearing screening.

Children who do not pass school hearing and vision screenings will be referred for follow-up care. ODH stresses that hearing and vision screening, while a valuable public health procedure, is not a substitute for a professional examination.

The Children's Hearing and Vision program is a program of early detection, diagnosis and treatment of children with hearing and vision problems. In addition to providing school-screening standards, the program conducts a statewide survey of hearing and vision screening programs and provides training for people who do screenings. If you have questions about the requirement please contact the Ohio Department of Health at the address or phone listed at the bottom of this letter.

Mailing Address:

Ohio Department of Health
Children's Hearing and Vision Program
246 N. High Street, 6th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Contact Information:

Hearing Screening Assistance: (614) 466-1995
Vision Screening Assistance: (614) 644-0139
Fax: (614) 728-6793

Sincerely,

Jenn Heyman
Principal

I do not consent to my child being assessed for the screenings:

Signature

_____, 2018

Date