

# HEARING & VISION SCREENING



## What Schools Should Know



### What is the Hearing & Vision Screening Program?

Michigan law (The Public Health Code 368 of 1978) requires Oakland County Health Division (OCHD) to provide no cost hearing and vision screenings to preschool and school-age children.

Screenings occur in most Oakland County public, private, and charter schools, preschools and at Health Division offices. The program is done in three steps over the course of a child's school years:

1. Screenings before kindergarten entry
2. Screenings in select grades up to 9th grade.
3. As needed, medical referrals for children not passing the screening

OCHD Public Health Technicians help identify potential concerns related to a child's ear or eye health. They are not doctors and do not diagnose conditions or prescribe treatment. Technicians complete a Michigan Department of Community Health & Human Services Technician Training Course and receive continuous training.

Hearing and Vision Screening Requirements	Hearing 	Vision 
Pre-school	X	X
Kindergarten Entry	X	X
Kindergarten	X	
1st Grade		X
2nd Grade	X	
3rd Grade		X
4th Grade	X	
5th Grade		X
7th Grade		X
9th Grade		X

### Why screen children's hearing and vision?

Hearing and vision difficulties can affect school performance, speech and language skills, self-esteem and social development. Regular hearing and vision screenings identify any problems and ensure they are caught early. Screenings are safe and help children get prompt medical care to reduce disease, physical damage to ear/eye and permanent loss of sight or hearing. They also help parents and teachers make accommodations to help children succeed.

## Will parents be notified students were screened in school?

Each school is responsible for communicating with parents about when screenings are scheduled. All children are screened unless the school office is notified otherwise by a parent/guardian. School personnel must note this on the classroom list that parent requests no screening.

If a child is absent or unable to screen, the technician will leave a letter for the parent to send home with the student. Parents/guardians will be notified by OCHD if the student does not pass a screening with a referral letter to follow-up with the appropriate doctor. State of Michigan law requires OCHD to request follow-up documentation that a child who has received this referral receives further evaluation by a physician. If a child does not pass a hearing screening, they may be referred to their physician or be invited to an OCHD-sponsored Otology Clinic. Otology clinics are offered at community sites throughout Oakland County and allow the child to be evaluated by an ENT (ear, nose and throat) physician and audiologist at no charge for further recommendations.

## How can teachers and school personnel assist hearing and vision screenings?

- Notify parents/guardians when screenings will occur and stress the importance of student attendance on those dates.
- Direct parents/guardians to OCHD to answer their questions.
- Avoid scheduling field trips or special events on screening days.
- Collaborate with Public Health Technicians regarding any documentation and accommodations needed to enable successful and efficient screenings.
- Ensure adequate time and space to screen every child appropriately.
- Notify the Public Health Technician if you are aware a student has an implanted medical device such as a shunt, pacemaker, vagus nerve stimulators for preventing seizures, Baclofen pumps for spinal cord injuries, etc. Children with implanted medical devices will not be screened for hearing because they may be at risk for unintended changes in device settings. Children with cochlear implants also are not screened at school. If the student has a medically implanted device and the parent would like a hearing screening, they need to contact their physician for a referral to an audiologist.
- Help distribute any correspondence to parents/guardians in a timely manner.
- Let parents, guardians, or Public Health Technicians know if you notice the following in a student:

### Hearing

- Drainage from the ears
- Asks for you or others to speak louder
- Asks for audiovisuals to be played louder
- Misunderstands directions or asks to have things repeated often
- Complains of headaches and/or dizziness after reading

### Vision

- Squints, closes one eye, leans forward, or tilts head to see board
- Eye that crosses or wanders even if only when child seems ill or tired
- Holds books and worksheets close to the eyes
- Eyes are frequently red or tearing
- Complains of painful or itchy eyes



## Where can I get more information?

Call: (248) 424-7070  
Email: [HearingVision@oakgov.com](mailto:HearingVision@oakgov.com)

Visit: [OakGov.com/Health](https://OakGov.com/Health)  
or [Michigan.Gov/mdhhs](https://Michigan.Gov/mdhhs)



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