


Closing the Gap: Helping Families Remove Barriers to Eye Care After Receiving Referrals from Vision Screening

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November 6, 2024




**National Center
for Children's Vision
and Eye Health**
Prevent Blindness

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Creating and Supporting Systems of Care


Prevent Blindness Values


- Equitable Access to Quality Eyecare
- Patient-Led
- Evidence-Based




**National Center
for Children's Vision
and Eye Health**
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- Professional resources: Expert guidelines for vision screening, Children's Vision Screening Certification Course, webinars, E-News, and webpage
- Outreach to Medically Underserved Populations: Small Steps for Big Vision, Zenni Scholarship, and Children's Vision Equity Alliance
- Vision Health of Children with Special Needs: guidance, education, assistance
- Technical Assistance nationally, state, and local levels
- Partnerships for Systems Change: NGOs, Federal Agencies, PB Affiliates
- Analysis and dissemination of findings of surveillance data and research
- Bonnie Strickland Champion for Children's Vision Award


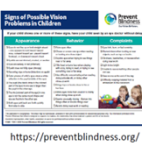





**Small Steps for
BIG VISION**



Fact Sheets, Webpages, Webinars, Parent/Caregiver Resources
Most available in English, Spanish, and select other languages

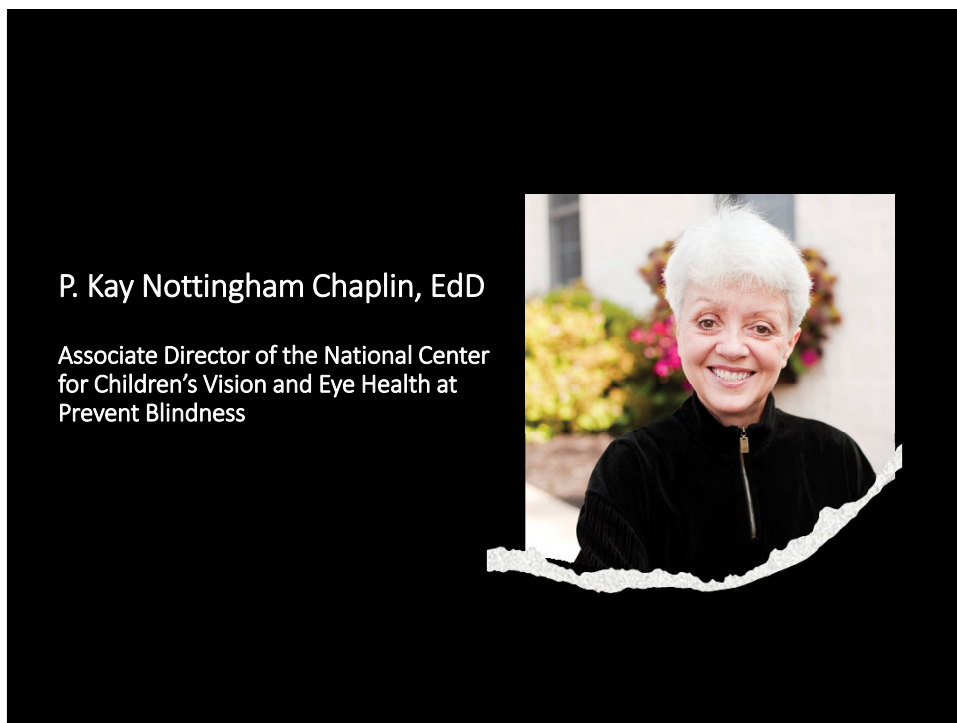


<https://preventblindness.org/>


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 **Academic Considerations for Vision**

- Improved GPA (reading and math) - more likely for hyperopes than myopes
- Increased satisfaction with school
- Reduced stress
- Improved cognition, attention span, and focus
- Improved test scores
- Less task avoidance and need for discipline
- Less labeling- ADD or ADHD
- Earlier identification leads to improved outcomes


Academic Performance of Oylar School Students after Receiving Spectacle Correction. Thesis by Kimberly L. Renner; Graduate Program in Vision Science; The Ohio State University, 2017
Healthier Students Are Better Learners: A Missing Link in School Reforms to Close the Achievement Gap. Basch, CE. EQUITY MATTERS: Research Review No. 6 Columbia University; March 2010. <https://sparkpe.org/wp-content/uploads/BaschReport.pdf>

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 **Advantages:
Vision Screening + Eye Exam + Glasses**


2015 study of low-income children ages 3 through 5 years screened in 23 schools in South Carolina's Charleston County School District – *after diagnosis and treatment with prescription glasses* – found:

- Improvement in academic progress.
- Increase in focus during lessons.
- Increase in participation and classroom interaction.
- Improvement in confidence and behavior.




Peterseim, M. M., Papa, C. E., Parades, C., Davidson, J., Sturges, A., Oslin, C., Merritt, I., & Morrison, M. (2015). Combining automated vision screening with on-site examinations in 23 schools: ReFocus on Children Program 2012 to 2013. *Journal of pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus*, 52(1), 20–24. <https://doi.org/10.3928/01913913-20141124-01>


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 **Why Resolve Barriers to Eye Exams?**

- A referral from vision screening **without** a follow-up, confirmatory eye examination, treatment and/or monitoring, and ongoing vision care **is not a complete vision screening.**
- **Undetected and untreated vision disorders**, if not treated early, preferably before age 7 years, may be **difficult to treat**, lead to worsening and **permanent vision loss**, and **impact learning.**
- One letter or one phone call may not be enough to ensure eye examination occurs.



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 **Rate of Confirmatory Eye Examinations**

Approximately 5% to 50% of children receive eye exam after vision screening referral

In one state, 80% of referrals do not move to eye exams.

Neitzel, A. J., Wolf, B., Guo, X., Shakarchi, A. F., Madden, N. A., Repka, M. X., Friedman, D. S., & Collins, M. E. (2021). Effect of a randomized interventional school-based vision program on academic performance of students in grades 3 to 7: A cluster randomized clinical trial. *JAMA Ophthalmology*, 139(10), 1104–1114. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamaophthalmol.2021.3544>

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Example of Systems Barrier

Q11

List the top 3 barriers that prevent eye exams after a vision screening referral (can be barrier such as cost or transportation or cultural belief about eye-care seeking behavior or not wanting child to wear glasses)

Doctors do not want to do the referral due to child's age.
Parents do not think it is necessary since doctors have told them their child is too young and their eye will change
Insurance does not want to provide the referral

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Presciliana Olayo, MLS


Coordinator of Vision Care Services for the Fort Worth Independent School District

Partners with the Alcon Children's Vision Center, Fort Worth, Texas

Alcon Children's Vision Center won the 2024 Bonnie Strickland Award




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 **Fort Worth ISD Background Information**

Fort Worth Independent School District (FWISD) serves about 70,000 students. Elementary enrollment is 34,400, Middle School enrollment is 13,700, and high school enrollment is 22,500. We enjoy a diverse population, serving students from 118 countries with 58 different languages.

2021-2022 Enrollment by Ethnicity		Top six languages	
1. Hispanic/Latino:	48,534 (64.84%)	1) English – 38,529	
2. Black/African American:	15,502 (20.71%)	2) Spanish – 31,484	
3. White:	8,162 (10.90%)	3) Swahili – 472	
4. Asian:	1,198 (1.60%)	4) Pashto (Pushto) – 275	
5. Two or more races:	1,329 (1.78%)	5) Arabic – 265	
6. American Indian/Alaskan:	82 (0.11%)	6) Farsi (Persian) – 244	
7. Hawaiian/Pacific Islander:	43 (0.06%)		

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Vision Screening Requirements

State of Texas, Health and Human Services Requirements


Acuity Screenings
In the first 120 days of admission: school must screen 4-year-olds, kindergartners, any first-time entrants (through 12th grade)

Anytime in the calendar year, preferable in the first semester: schools screen only 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th grades

Screening Requirements
Screening information must be collected on each child using a facility-created screening form or the state-provided form. A screening record must be on file for each enrolled child, and the record must be submitted to the DOS by June 30 of each year.



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Alcon Children's Vision Center

Alcon Children's Vision Center
(ACVC) and Fort Worth ISD formed a Partnership to provide comprehensive vision care services to students.

Mission: Helping Kids Learn by Helping Kids See

Recognize the importance of good vision and eye health for academic success – aim to provide eligible students with access to comprehensive eye exams and high-quality eyewear, all at no cost.



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 National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health
Prevent Blindness

Alcon Children's Vision Center

The **Alcon Children's Vision Center**, a nonprofit school-based eye care clinic that provides vision care services, comprehensive eye exams, and high-quality eyewear for eligible students in connection with the vision acuity screening results. Funding is provided by the Alcon Foundation



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Prevent Blindness

Alcon Children's Vision Center


The partnership's primary focus is elementary grade students, but serves the eye care needs of Fort Worth ISD students in Pre-K through 12th grade.

Services Include

- Acuity Screenings
- Comprehensive Eye Exams
- Prescription Glasses (Replacement)
- Continuation of Care and Education



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Alcon Children's Vision Center


ACVC is dedicated to Fort Worth ISD students.

Provide comprehensive eye exams and high-quality eyewear to eligible students.

- Travel to elementary schools across FWISD for on-site services.
- Group event schools with transportation provided.




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FWISD Children's Vision Program

Grades PK-5					
Program Services	2020-2021 Summary	2021-2022 Summary	2022-2023 Summary	2023-2024 Summary	2024-2025 Projections
Vision Screened Students	20,141	35,784	35,076	34,616	33,850
Vision Referrals	3,077	7,022	7,571	6,763	6,711
% Referral	15%	20%	22%	20%	20%
Comprehensive Eye Exams	2,077	3,291	3,299	3,862	4,462
% Students served	68%	47%	44%	57%	64%


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 **Working together is essential to the success of our students!**

- The program had a 57% success rate and we are working to increase the rate
- How are we increasing the parental consent rate?
 - Hybrid model – Electronic & Paper
 - Nurse vacancy impacts parent consent rate
- Why parents do not consent?
 - Educating parents is CRITICAL
 - Build personal relationship with parents – Personal phone call
 - School Administrators & Staff – ambassadors of children's vision




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Shondel Reese, RN-BSN

Nursing Coordinator
Wilkinson County
School System District
Irwinton, Georgia


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Color-Coded Programs

- **Benefits:**
- Results are easily detected and visible
- Every document in your hearing and vision program are designated a color
- Organized transparency for staff and administration at your specific facility
- Reduced occurrence of cross-filing with other important documents

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Bridging the Gap with Communication & Education

"Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision."- Andrew Carnegie

As the District Nurse Coordinator, I make every effort to educate my colleagues and peers in ways to connect, by bridging the gap and decreasing the barriers to vision and optimal eye health.

How? Simply, Education. Reassurance. Resourceful.


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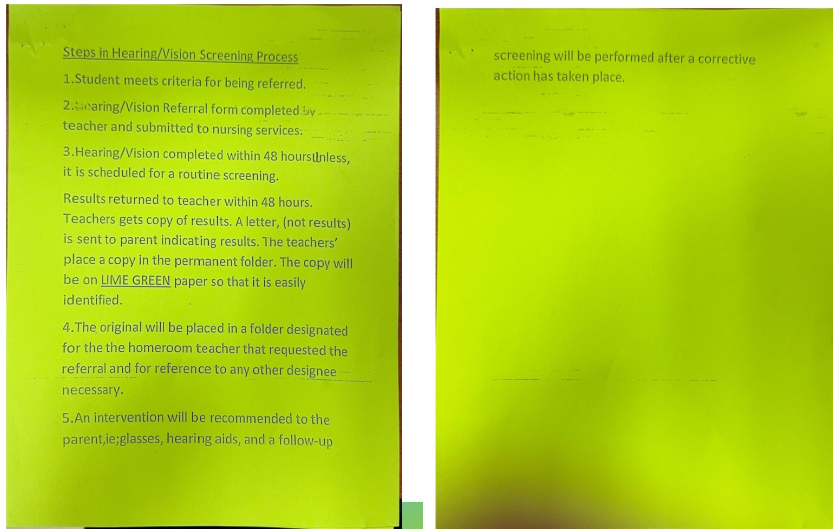
From Start to Finish

- At the beginning of the year, we provide a brief training and overview to teachers and staff. This offers staff guidance on what signs and symptoms to look for with the students that need referrals.
- We also provide the step-by-step guidance for referral and consent process from start to finish.

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Hearing & Vision Process




Steps in Hearing/Vision Screening Process

1. Student meets criteria for being referred.
2. Hearing/Vision Referral form completed by teacher and submitted to nursing services.
3. Hearing/Vision completed within 48 hours unless, it is scheduled for a routine screening. Results returned to teacher within 48 hours. Teachers get copy of results. A letter, (not results) is sent to parent indicating results. The teachers' place a copy in the permanent folder. The copy will be on LIME GREEN paper so that it is easily identified.
4. The original will be placed in a folder designated for the homeroom teacher that requested the referral and for reference to any other designee necessary.
5. An intervention will be recommended to the parent i.e. glasses, hearing aids, and a follow-up.

screening will be performed after a corrective action has taken place.

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 **Consent Letter to Parent**

Wilkinson County School System
Consent for Vision/Hearing Screening

Dear Parent(s) of:

- As a part of reevaluation process, we will conduct a hearing and vision screening. The purpose is to determine whether these are causing or contributing to your child's difficulties in class. Please complete the information below so that we may proceed with this screening.
- We appreciate your support of our efforts. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher at (Your Facility's Phone Number)


_____ Yes, I agree for the Wilkinson County School System to conduct a hearing and VISION screening for my child.

_____ No, I do not agree for the Wilkinson County School System to conduct a hearing and vision on my child. Please contact me for more information.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

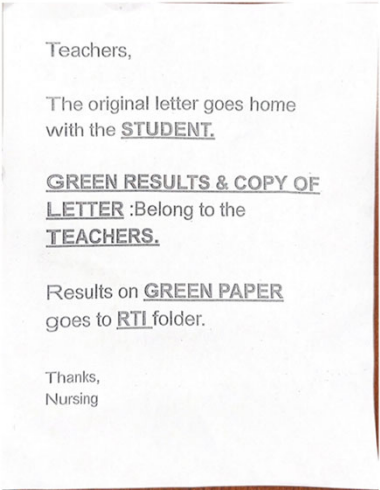
Date: _____

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 **RESULTS: Where Do We Go From Here?**

After a student is screened, a copy of the results:

1. Mailed to the Parent by the Nurse
2. A copy of the results and letter mailed is forwarded to the teacher.
3. Three copies are placed in a backup file.



Teachers,


The original letter goes home with the STUDENT.

GREEN RESULTS & COPY OF LETTER :Belong to the TEACHERS.

Results on GREEN PAPER goes to RTL folder.

Thanks,
Nursing


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Passed the Screening

1. A copy of the results on **LIME GREEN** paper are forwarded to the teachers, as well as a copy of the results are sent to the parent.
**This step notifies the teacher that the nurse has initiated the initial communication.
2. A letter is mailed to the parents to notify them of passed results.
3. Results are entered into the student's medical record database. (For example: Powerschool, Infinite Campus, Gradelink, and etc.)


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Did Not Pass the Screening

1. A copy of the results on **LIME GREEN** paper are forwarded to the teachers, as well as a copy of the results are sent to the parent.
**This step notifies the teacher that the nurse has initiated the initial communication.
2. A letter is mailed to the parents to notify them their child did not pass screening, as well as the education from Prevent Blindness of Georgia.
3. Results are entered into the student's medical record database. (For example: Powerschool, Infinite Campus, Gradelink, and etc.)
4. Student is added to a list for follow-up. In approximately 2 weeks, nurse will follow-up with teacher to see if plan for intervention is in place.
5. Nurse will reach out to educate parents as needed on the understanding of the need for follow-up. If the parents' response is delayed, prolonged, or ignored, social services are contacted to reach out to parents to assist.
**Examples of assistance: Defining the barriers to eye health such as transportation, funding, OR helping to reinforce the education from the teachers/nurse perspective or recommendation.
6. The nurse ensures that the student has received intervention before documenting **as completed**. Once the student receives the intervention, every vision screening completed thereafter is with glasses on.

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 **Prevent Blindness of Georgia: Form 3300**

YOUR CHILD FAILED THE FORM 3300 VISION SCREENING

The purpose of the Form 3300 Vision Screening required for school entry in Georgia is to early find out your child may not be able to see well enough to learn.

Did you know?

Most of what a child learns is through vision. A child who cannot see well misses much of what is going on around him including things in the classroom.

Many preschoolers/children have a vision problem that could cause permanent vision loss or even blindness if not detected and treated early.

Minor problems in school age children can impede learning.

Why treat vision problems?

Because they may lead to:

- **PERMANENT VISION LOSS OR BLINDNESS** in one or both eyes
- Poor performance in school
- Frustration with reading and writing
- Behavioral problems or other attention span
- Poor hand-eye coordination, clumsiness and increased risk of injury
- Difficulty with sports
- Lack of confidence or self-esteem

But your child hasn't complained?

He may not realize he has a vision problem or know how to describe it. Children with poor vision rarely know that they may not be able to see as different from the way without and good vision see it. This is especially true if the problem is only in one eye.

You haven't noticed a problem?

That's not unusual. Many vision problems cannot be seen.

YOUR CHILD FAILED THE FORM 3300 VISION SCREENING - CONTINUED

It's hereditary?

That doesn't mean that there is no treatment or that your child has to suffer vision loss.


What should you do?


1. Make an appointment to see with an eye doctor who sees children - either an ophthalmologist or optometrist. It is not enough to see a pediatrician. Only an eye doctor can diagnose vision problems and prescribe treatment.
2. Do not wait. Children's vision problems do not go away and they can not improve. Lack of treatment may result in permanent loss of vision or even blindness. In the meantime, your child is missing what's going on around him. And you, even young children can have eye exams.
3. Follow all recommendations for vision treatment as instructed by the eye doctor.
4. Ask for the eye doctor's report to be sent to your child's primary doctor.

How do you find an eye doctor?

1. Ask your pediatrician for a recommendation or ask the parent of a child who wears glasses.
2. If your child has insurance, call the provider services number on the insurance card or access the provider's web site to find the names of local doctors who accept the insurance.
3. When calling to schedule the appointment, ask if the doctor accepts new patients (if applicable). Be sure to mention your child's age and confirm that the doctor will see a child of this age.

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 **Make Positive Reinforcement Fun
"Glasses for Classes"**




WGES
GLASSES
EDUCATION

Coloring Page

Fall into Books!

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 **Credits**

I want to give a special thanks to my co-worker, Nurse Riddle, for her support and assistance with the creation of this presentation.

“Our Vision Is Vision”


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**Shayn A. Toulouse, DNP,
MEd, BSN, RN, NCSN**


Northeast Regional School Nurse
Consultant
Haverhill Public Schools
Haverhill, Massachusetts

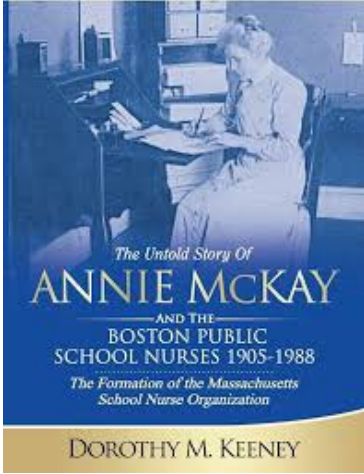
Massachusetts Director
National Association of School Nurses
(NASN) Board of Directors

Member, Advisory Committee to the
National Center for Children's Vision
and Eye Health at Prevent Blindness



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 **Brief Historical Perspective: 1905**



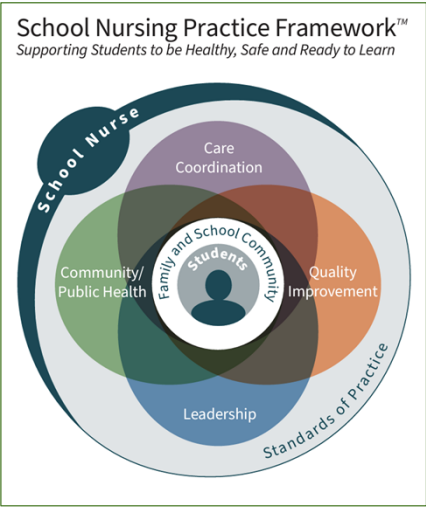
“The single issue that absorbed most of her time was children with poor eyesight...sadly only one of the sixty-six parents followed through and brought their child for the examination. Since they were all willing for their children to have the exam, she took all of them to the Dispensary, going in groups of five or six.”

Keeney, D. M. (2020). *The Untold Story of ANNIE MCKAY and The Boston Public School Nurses 1905-1988*.

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 **National Association of School Nurses (NASN)**

School Nursing Practice Framework™
Supporting Students to be Healthy, Safe and Ready to Learn

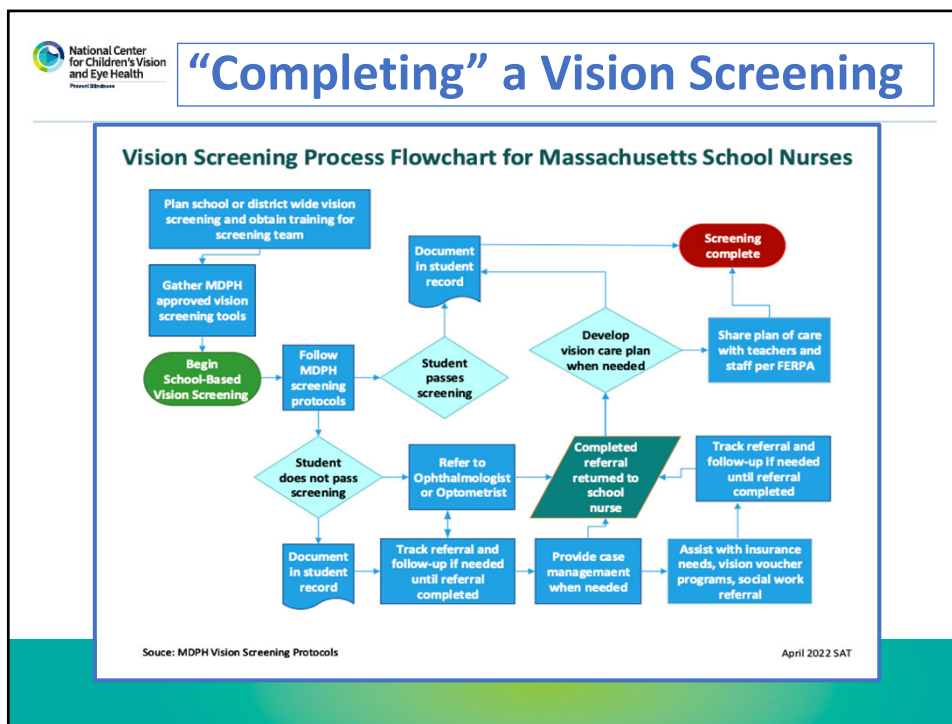


Multiple elements of this framework intersect to provide guidance that is relevant to our work with students, families, and community providers as it relates to conducting vision screening programs.

National Association of School Nurses. (2024). A contemporary *Framework* update for today's school nursing landscape: Introducing the *School Nursing Practice Framework™*. *NASN School Nurse*, 0(0). doi:10.1177/1942602X241241092

*Used with permission.

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Finding the “Why” the Gap Occurs

- Our goal as nurses and others who care for families should be to provide case management.
- Avoid labeling families as “non-compliant.”
- Dig deeper to find the “why.”
- Help identify common barriers and cultural beliefs.
- Work with families to address barriers and beliefs.

DIG DEEPER

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Closing the Gaps for Families


This work can only be done if:

- As care providers, we understand our communities and have knowledge of the resources that are available to the families we serve
- We understand that “equal” is not “equitable”
- Your organization has a standardized process and tools for conducting effective vision screening programs that get kids to care

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Small Steps to Eye Care Action Plan: A Conversation Guide



INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING THE “SMALL STEPS TO EYE CARE ACTION PLAN: A CONVERSATION GUIDE”

- Structural and social determinants can often create barriers for parents/caregivers when it comes to scheduling and taking their children to a confirmatory eye exam and follow-up eye care after receiving a vision screening referral.¹
- We created the Small Steps to Eye Care Action Plan: A Conversation Guide to help resolve individualized barriers to follow-up eye care after a family receives a vision screening referral. You can determine when it is best to use this Action Plan (e.g., after the 3rd contact and the child has yet to see an eye doctor).
- The goal of this conversation guide is to create a plan together with the parent/caregiver or family medical decision-maker to resolve barriers to scheduling and attending an eye exam.
- The questions on pages 3 and 4 of this Action Plan will help guide a conversation about addressing individualized barriers the parent/caregiver or family medical decision-maker identifies.
- This conversation guide and Small Steps to Eye Care Action Plan development can be conducted in person or over the telephone. Another option is offering the family pages 3 and 4 to complete before meeting or talking with you.

- Read the “Conversation Instructions” on page 2 before beginning a discussion with the parent/caregiver for family decision-maker.
- After you have read and understood the instructions and are ready for the conversation, begin by asking the parent’s/caregiver’s or family medical decision-maker’s permission to discuss the vision screening referral they recently received.
- Once you have permission, ask the parent/caregiver or family medical decision-maker if they have any questions about the referral or what needs to happen next. If no questions or concerns are immediately identified by the caregiver, continue with the Action Plan’s conversation questions on pages 3 and 4.

¹ The World Health Organization’s (WHO) 2023 Vision and eye screening implementation handbook emphasizes the necessity of creating and maintaining a referral follow-up system to help close the gap between vision screening referrals, eye examinations, and treatment.

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine’s 2016 report, Making Eye Health a Population Health Imperative: Vision for Tomorrow, highlights the need for a follow-up care system to help reduce vision impairment.

The WHO says it is crucial to understand and address the reasons why the eye examination and/or treatment is not occurring.

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Small Steps to
 Eye Care Action
 Plan: A
 Conversation
 Guide

Small Steps to Eye Care Action Plan: A Conversation Guide

SCRIPT: "A vision screening referral means a child needs an eye exam to determine if the child has a vision disorder that requires treatment. We've talked with many parents/caregivers and have learned that several have the same concerns about taking their child to an eye doctor. With your permission, I'd like to read through this list of concerns other caregivers have and help you think about how we can work together to get <<_____>> an eye exam."

Yes	No	Unsure	Concern #1:
			Do you or another family member have transportation to go to the eye exam appointment?

Yes	No	Unsure	Concern #2:
			Have you noticed anything that concerns you about _____'s vision? (Refer to Signs of Possible Vision Problems in Children – English or Spanish .) If yes, what are your concerns?

Yes	No	Unsure	Concern #3:
			Do you have any concerns about _____'s potentially needing to wear glasses? If yes, could you help me understand your concerns?

Yes	No	Unsure	Concern #4:
			Do you have any concerns about the cost of an eye exam or eyeglasses? If yes, please help me understand your concerns.

Yes	No	Unsure	Concern #5:
			Do you have insurance coverage for eye examinations or eyeglasses?

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Small Steps
 to Eye Care
 Action Plan:
 A
 Conversation
 Guide

Small Steps to Eye Care Action Plan: A Conversation Guide

Small Steps to Eye Care Action Plan		
Concern # ____:		
Action Step and who is responsible:	Due Date:	Completed Date:
Notes:		
Concern # ____:		
Action Step and who is responsible:	Due Date:	Completed Date:
Notes:		
Concern # ____:		
Action Step and who is responsible:	Due Date:	Completed Date:
Notes:		

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 National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health
Prevent Blindness

Create or Improve your "system"


- This work will be unique to YOUR community
- Conduct a "gap analysis" or community needs assessment and find resources first
- It won't happen quickly
- "You must never look down on anyone. Never give up on them!"

Mary White, Community Health Worker
Boston, MA


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P. Kay Nottingham Chaplin, EdD

Associate Director of the National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health at Prevent Blindness




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Finding the "Why"

- The World Health Organization's (WHO) 2023 *Vision and eye screening implementation handbook* emphasizes the necessity of creating and maintaining a referral follow-up system to help close the gap between vision screening referrals, eye examinations, and treatment.
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240082458>
- The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's 2016 report, *Making Eye Health a Population Health Imperative: Vision for Tomorrow*, highlights the need for a follow-up care system to help reduce vision impairment.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK385157/>
- The WHO says it is crucial to understand and address the reasons why the eye examination and/or treatment is not occurring.

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TIPS: Creating a Comprehensive, Systematic Approach to Help Close the Gap

1. Educate parents, family members, the families' medical decision-maker in a multi-generational home, teachers, and school administrators on the importance of early detection and treatment of children referred from vision screenings.
 - a. Offer educational materials in a preferred language, when possible, and method (e.g., paper, email, or text).
 - b. Education topics should include:
 - i. Signs of potential vision disorders,
 - ii. Importance of good vision,
 - iii. Importance of comprehensive eye examinations after vision screening referrals, and
 - iv. Impact of uncorrected vision disorders on academic performance.

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**Educational Material for Families,
Teachers, School Administrators**



Small Steps for **BIG VISION**

Parent
Resources


<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Did you know?2. 10 take home messages3. Signs of vision problems in children4. Association Between Vision and Learning5. Vision and Classroom Behaviors6. Difference between vision screening and eye exam7. Importance of eye exam8. 10 steps from vision screening to eye exam9. How to Schedule an Eye Exam10. Financial Assistance	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. ¿Sabía Usted?2. Diez mensajes para llevar a casa3. Signos de problemas oculares en los niños4. Asociación entre visión y aprendizaje5. Los comportamientos en el aula pueden estar relacionados con la mala visión6. Diferencia entre una evaluación de la vista y un examen ocular7. Importancia del examen ocular de seguimiento después de recibir una referencia de una evaluación de la vista8. Diez pasos pequeños desde la evaluación de la vista hasta el examen ocular
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<https://www.nasn.org/nasn-resources/resources-by-topic/vision-health>

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TIPS: Creating a Comprehensive, Systematic Approach to Help Close the Gap

2. Understand social determinants of health and how they may play a role in a family's ability to follow up on a referral from a vision screening for a confirmatory examination. Discuss with the family/caregivers any concerns they may have and offer resources to overcome challenges.

(Examples - Transportation, proximity to follow-up eye care, insurance coverage, societal influence, and ability to take time from work)

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TIPS:
Creating a Comprehensive, Systematic Approach to Help Close the Gap

3. Create and maintain a systematic referral follow-up system for vision screening (e.g., electronic or manual spreadsheet to track children referred and contact dates with the family).

The purpose of using a systematic method is to identify and help to resolve individualized family barriers preventing the eye examination and treatment, if necessary, from occurring.

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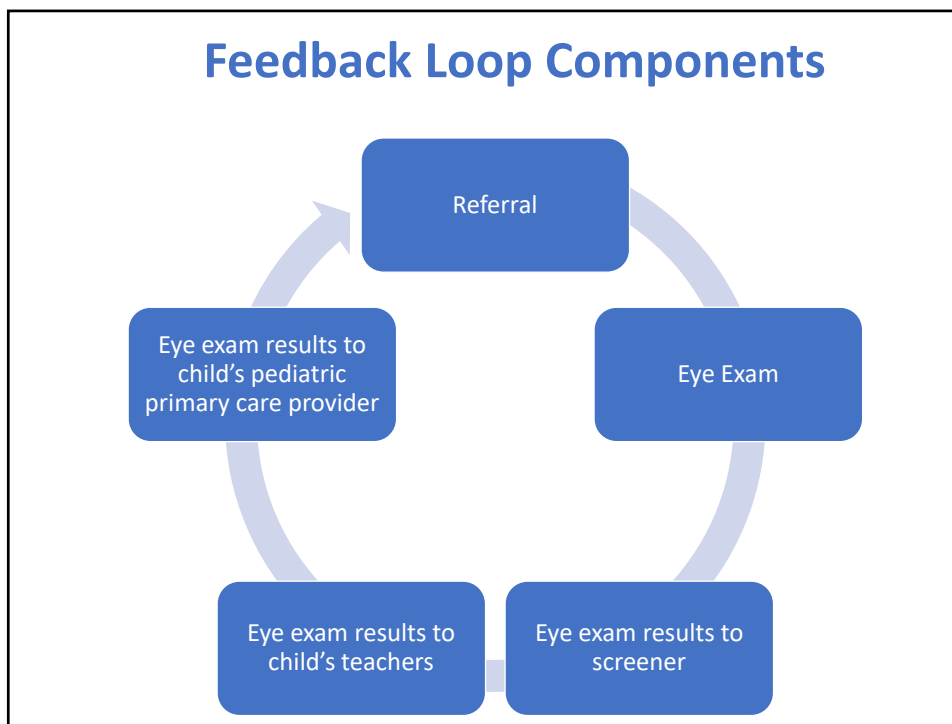
TIPS:
Creating a Comprehensive, Systematic Approach to Help Close the Gap

4. Create and implement a data collection system to close the feedback loop between the referral for the eye examination, receiving examination results, and sharing eye exam results with appropriate personnel.


The data collection system helps identify program strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement.

(For example - More than 50% of your referred children do not receive comprehensive eye exams after vision screening referrals – what can you do?)

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 **TIPS:**
Creating a Comprehensive, Systematic Approach to Help Close the Gap

1. **Call local eye doctors and document for each eye doctor the following (and share this information with parents/caregivers):**
 - a. Eye Doctor Name
 - b. Practice Name
 - c. Website Address
 - d. Physical Address
 - e. Telephone Number for Appointments
 - f. Hours Open for Business
 - g. Typical Time Eye Examinations Occur After an Examination is Scheduled
 - h. Whether or Not the Eye Doctor Accepts Medicaid
 - i. Other Types of Payment Accepted
 - j. Languages Spoken at the Office
 - k. Population Specialty (e.g., African American children, American Indian and Alaska Native children, Latinx children, etc.)
 - l. Whether or Not Interpreters are Provided
 - m. Whether or Not the Eye Doctor Examines and Treats Young Children
 - n. Whether or Not the Eye Doctor Examines and Treats Children With Special Health Care Needs, Including Infants and Toddlers (If the eye doctor does not see Children with Special Health Care Needs, will the eye doctor give you a name and telephone number of the closest eye doctor who will see Children with Special Health Care Needs?)
- **Assign staff or a volunteer to update the list every 6 months and include the revised date on the document to ensure families receive an up-to-date list.**

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National Association of School Nurses Vision and Eye Health

(NCCVEH and NASN partnership)

7. Systemized Approach to Follow-Up

Implement/facilitate a follow-up system with parents/caregivers following a failed vision screening, which includes creating a system to monitor whether eye examinations occurred and identifying barriers to follow-up eye care and ways to overcome those barriers, such as lack of transportation or assistance with paying the cost of an eye examination.

Marsh-Tootle, W.L., Russ, S.A., & Repka, M.X. (2015). Vision and eye health in children 36 to <72 months: Proposed data definitions. *Optometry and Vision Science*, 92(1), 17-23. doi: 1040- 5488/15/9201- 0017/0 17Y23. Retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net/publication/270663059_Vision_and_Eye_Health_in_Children_36_to_72_Months

Hartmann, E.E., Block, S.S., & Wallace, D.K. (2015). Vision and eye health in children 36 to 72 months: Proposed data system. *Optometry and Vision Science*, 92(1), 24-30. doi: 1040-5488 Retrieved from https://www.healthit.gov/sites/default/files/comments_upload/vision_and_eye_health_2.988810.pdf <https://www.nasn.org/nasn-resources/resources-by-topic/vision-health>

See Jane See! Parental Advice for Healthy Vision in Kids (NOTE: prevalence is 1 in 17 -- resource states 1 in 20)

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National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health
Prevent Blindness
Vision Screening Certification

Vision Screening Certification

- Info for Prevent Blindness nationally recognized vision screening certification you can do online at your own pace
- Prevent Blindness Children's Vision Screening Certification Course (PB CVS)

<https://nationalcenter.preventblindness.org/prevent-blindness-childrens-vision-screening-certification-course/>
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Call to Action to Help Close the Gap

- ❑ Meet families where they are and do not call parents/caregivers noncompliant.
- ❑ Dig deeper for the “why” a confirmatory eye examination is not occurring.
- ❑ Share resources with families about the importance of good vision and scheduling and attending a follow-up eye examination when their children do not pass vision screening.
- ❑ Work with families to create individualized Action Plans to help ensure the eye examination and treatment/monitoring occurs.

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Thank you for your TIME and your ATTENTION. . .




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