

VISION SCREENING

"Children with impaired vision often are not aware of their impairment; therefore, they do not complain or seek help." (National Association of School Nurses)

Today's Date

School

Tier 1, Initial Screening Date

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Utah state law ([UCA 53G-9-404](#)) mandates child vision screening in schools. School vision screening programs are cost-effective and identify serious vision problems early. Early vision interventions improve children's physical, intellectual, social, and emotional development.

There are two levels of screening, Tier 1 and Tier 2.

- **Tier 1** vision screenings are a lower-level screening, such as basic distance vision screening. After the initial screening date, [follow up screenings for absentees will occur throughout the year as needed.](#)
- **Tier 2** screenings are a higher-level evaluation that includes distance and near vision screening. It may also include eye focusing, tracking, and convergence insufficiency screenings, but these are optional. [These screenings will occur throughout the school year as requested by school staff or parent.](#)

Utah code ([R384-201-4](#)) states: "Free Screening.

(1) A student in an LEA* shall receive a free tier 1 vision screening as follows:

(a) tier 1 vision screening shall be conducted for a student who is in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, grades 1, 3, 5, 7 or 8, and 9 or 10, and any student referred by school personnel, parent or guardian or self to rule out vision as an obstacle to learning.

(2) A student may be referred for tier 2 vision screening under the following circumstances:

- (a) mandatory tier 2 screening or referral to an eye care professional shall be done for a student requiring education intervention such as special education referral or reevaluation, or failing benchmark reading assessment.
- (b) optional tier 2 vision screening may be done based on parent or teacher concern;
- (c) a student failing a tier 1 screening who has been referred to an eye care professional is not required to complete a tier 2 screening;
- (d) the LEA may automatically refer the student to an eye care professional in lieu of performing a tier 2 vision screening; "

*Please note that LEA = Local Educational Agency, in this case the Washington County School District.

[If your child does not pass either Tier 1 or Tier 2 vision screening, you will be notified in writing, or by phone.](#) The results of the vision screenings may be shared with other educators and health care professionals within the school district to provide appropriate follow-up services.

As per Utah law, if you **DO NOT** want your child to participate in the above described vision screenings, you may opt out by returning the attached opt-out form to the school. **If you do not return the opt-out form, vision screening will be conducted as mandated by Utah law and as per rule.**

- ❖ If you need assistance with getting a professional eye exam and/or a pair of glasses, please contact your school nurse or counselor.