

Vision and Hearing Screening Mandate

The **Child Vision and Hearing Test Act** ([410 ILCS 205](#)) mandates the following in all public, private, and parochial schools:

Vision screening must be provided annually for:

1. **Preschool children** 3 years of age or older in any public or private educational program or licensed childcare facility.
2. **School age children** in kindergarten, 2nd and 8th grades, in special education class, referred by a teacher, or are transfer students.
3. **Recommended** for those in 4th, 6th, 10th, and 12th grades.

Hearing screening must be provided annually for:

1. **Preschool children** 3 years of age or older in any public or private educational program or licensed childcare facility
2. **School age children** in kindergarten, 2nd and 8th grades, in special education class, referred by a teacher, or are transfer students.

**Follow up screens shall be done within 2 weeks of the initial screening date. Those children with test results that meet criteria will be referred for further evaluation.

The **Illinois Administrative Code** ([Title 77 Administrative Code Section 685.110 \(d\)](#)) requires that parents/guardians are notified prior to a screening in writing that a screen will be conducted. Notification can be done through a school website, school handbook, a newsletter, the school calendar, a separate notice, etc. The notice is not consent to screen.

The following language must be included in the notice per (105 ILCS 5/27-8.1) (from Ch. 122, par. 27-8.1):

“Vision/Hearing screening is not a substitute for a complete vision/hearing examination by an eye/hearing doctor. Your child is not required to undergo the vision/hearing screening if an optometrist or ophthalmologist or hearing doctor has completed and signed a report indicating that an eye examination or hearing examination has been administered within the previous 12 months.”

In lieu of the required screening services, a completed and signed report form, indicating the child had an examination by an optometrist or ophthalmologist for vision and/or physician for an audiological evaluation completed by an audiologist within the previous 12 months, is acceptable.

Screens shall be provided by an IDPH certified vision and hearing screening technician. These services are currently provided by the Ford County Public Health Department. For more information, please call Becky Beck, C.A.T.V., at 217-379-9281.