

## School Eye Examinations Information Sheet

- Effective date: January 1, 2008.
- All children enrolling in kindergarten in a public, private, or parochial school and any student enrolling for the first time in a public, private, or parochial school are required to have an eye examination.
- The eye examination requirement does not apply to children enrolling in preschool.
- Examinations must be performed by a licensed optometrist or medical doctor who performs eye examinations, as specified in Illinois Department of Public Health administrative rules. He/she shall complete and sign the Eye Examination Report form, as designated and available on the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois State Board of Education websites.
- Before October 15 of the school year, each child to whom the eye examination requirement applies is required to present proof of an eye examination by a licensed optometrist or medical doctor who performs eye examinations, as specified in the Illinois Department of Public Health administrative rules.
- The required eye examination must be completed within one year prior to the first day of the school year in which the child enters kindergarten or the child enters the Illinois school system for the first time, whether entering a public, private, or parochial school.
- For students attending school programs where grade levels are not assigned, eye examinations must be completed within one year prior to the first day of the school year of the child's first entry into the Illinois school system.
- The Eye Examination Report form and the Eye Examination Waiver form are uniform for statewide use. The authorized forms are available on the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois State Board of Education websites; other organizations or agencies may link to these websites to access the forms. The Eye Examination Report form and the Eye Examination Waiver form, both dated 6/09, must be used.
- If a child fails to present proof of the required eye examination by October 15, the school may withhold the child's report card until:
  - ▽ The child presents proof of the required eye examination by submitting a completed Eye Examination Report form.
  - OR**
  - ▽ The child presents an Eye Examination Waiver form indicating—
    - The child is enrolled in medical assistance/All Kids, but the family is unable to locate in their community a licensed optometrist or a medical doctor who performs eye

examinations to examine the child and who will accept medical assistance/All Kids.

- The child does not have any type of medical or vision/eye care insurance coverage, the child does not qualify for medical assistance/All Kids, there are no low-cost vision/eye clinics in the community that will examine the child, and the family has exhausted all other means and does not have sufficient income to provide the child with an eye examination.
- Other undue burden or lack of access to a licensed optometrist or medical doctor who performs eye examinations prevents the child from obtaining an eye examination. (Specify.)

**OR**

- ▽ The child presents an exemption based on religious grounds (follow Section 27-8.1(8) of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/27-8.1(8)]).

**OR**

- ▽ The child presents proof of an appointment for an eye examination scheduled within 60 days after the October 15 deadline.

- Every school is required to report to the Illinois State Board of Education by June 30:
  - ▽ Number of children with eye examinations completed.
  - ▽ Number of children not completing an eye examination (no waiver, no religious exemption, and no approved appointment for an eye examination within 60 days after October 15).
  - ▽ Number of children for whom a waiver is submitted due to undue burden or lack of access—
    - Child is enrolled in medical assistance/All Kids, but the family is unable to locate in their community a licensed optometrist or a medical doctor who performs eye examinations to examine the child and who will accept medical assistance/All Kids.
    - Child does not have any type of medical or vision/eye care coverage, child does not qualify for medical assistance/All Kids, there are no low-cost vision/eye clinics in the community that will examine the child, and the family has exhausted all other means and does not have sufficient income to provide the child with an eye examination.
    - Other undue burden or lack of access to a licensed optometrist or medical doctor who performs eye examinations. (Specify.)
  - ▽ Number of children receiving an exemption based on religious objection.
  - ▽ Number of children submitting proof of an appointment for an eye examination scheduled within 60 days after the October 15 deadline.