ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

PREVENTION SERVICES

The ADHS Sensory Screening Program

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General Questions:

Who can I contact for additional information?

Please email sensoryprogram@azdhs.gov or call 602-364-2446 for additional questions or assistance.

Where can I access general information about the ADHS Sensory Screening Program?

General program information and all program updates can be found on the ADHS Sensory Screening Program website.

Where can I locate the Hearing and Vision Screening Rules?

The Hearing Screening and Vision Screening Rules can be found in the Arizona Administrative Code, Chapter 13, Article 1.

General Screening Requirements:

Do I need to be certified to conduct hearing and vision screenings?

School based hearing screenings must be performed by or under the supervision of a certified screener.

Non-certified individuals can perform initial screenings under the supervision of a certified screener.

Can parents opt out of hearing and vision screenings?

Yes. The right of parents to object to Arizona's school based hearing or vision screenings for their child is outlined in statute, specifically ARS 36-899.04 and ARS 36-899.10 respectively.

This does not supersede requirements outlined by federal or state law that may require a hearing or vision screening/evaluation for determination of eligibility for special programs, including Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), or 504 plans. For questions about requirements for determining special education

eligibility, please contact your district special education coordinator or The Arizona Department of Education at www.azed.gov/specialeducation.

What is the best strategy for screening young children or students with special needs?

Utilize the OAE and SPOT machines to attempt screenings for these students.

Students may benefit from additional preparation or practice for the screenings.

There will always be some students who will not be able to participate in school based screenings. At the screener's discretion, multiple attempts to screen do not need to be made if an initial attempt at screening appears distressing to the student. Document that the screening could not be completed and send home a referral for follow up with a specialist.

Do special education students have to be screened within 45 days of the start of school?

The ADHS Hearing Screening and Vision Screening Rules do not differentiate screening timelines for special education or general education student populations. The current screening timeline outlined in rule is 90 school days from the first day of the school year.

Please refer to the ADE requirements for Child Find screenings at https://www.azed.gov/specialeducation/az-find and hearing and vision screening for Special Education and IEPs outlined in A.R.S. Title 15, Chapter 7, Article 4 and A.A.C. R7-2-401.

Who is considered a "new student" under the Hearing Screening and Vision Screening Rules?

The Sensory Screening Program considers a "new student" any student who is enrolled in a school district, charter or private school system, or other educational program for the first time for whom no record of a previous vision or hearing screening completed in an Arizona school.

Hearing Screening

Where can I find the revised hearing screening rules 9 A.A.C. 13, Article 1?

The updated rules are published in The Arizona Administrative Code and can be accessed here: ***Hearing Screening and Vision Screening Rules***

What students need to have a hearing screening?

Information about screening populations and protocols can be found in the ***Hearing & Vision Screening Guidance for the 2024-2025 School Year***

Vision Screening:

Is vision screening mandatory for schools?

Yes. Arizona Revised Statute ARS 36-899.10 requires public and charter schools to perform vision screening as outlined in the ADHS Vision Screening Rules.

Private schools are specifically excluded from this requirement. However, many private schools choose to perform these screenings and we recommend doing so in line with the Vision Screening Rules and school year screening guidance.

When will vision rules go into effect?

Vision Rules are currently in effect. The rules were approved in May 2024 and became effective July 7, 2024. Schools are expected to implement vision screenings according to rule beginning in the 2024-2025 school year.

Where can I find the vision screening rules 9 A.A.C. 13, Article 1?

The updated rules are published in The Arizona Administrative Code and can be accessed here: ***Hearing Screening and Vision Screening Rules***

What students need to have a vision screening?

Information about screening populations and protocols can be found in the ***Hearing & Vision Screening Guidance for the 2024-2025 School Year***

Can we screen every student with an autorefractor/photoscreener?

Autorefractors/photoscreeners ***should not*** *be used instead of near and distance optotype visual acuity screening for students in the specific grades and special circumstances (new students, specific referrals, etc) listed in the rules.*

However, schools and districts have the authority to establish internal policies to screen above and beyond the state requirements. As programs determine if and how they will screen additional students that are outside the requirements in the rules, the Sensory Screening Program strongly suggests doing so in alignment with best practice recommendations from national pediatric health organizations.

Do we have to rescreen vision?

Vision rescreening is not required but may be performed at the discretion of the screener between 1 and 30 school days after the initial screening.

Are there any vision kits available?

Historically, vision kits have been purchased through donations to the ADHS Sensory Screening Program for that purpose. Additional vision kits will be made available as funding allows. Announcements will be posted to the Sensory Screening Program website when kits are available.

Certification & CEU's:

How long is my hearing or vision certification valid?

Hearing and Vision Screening certifications are valid for 4 years.

When can I expect my certificate from the ADHS Sensory Screening Program after completing training?

Currently, the ADHS Sensory Screening Program is processing a certificate within 30 days from the date of receiving the training roster from the trainer.

I didn't receive my certificate after the training.

The Sensory Screening program works to process rosters and send certificates within 30 days of receiving them from trainers. If it has been more than 30 days since your training, please email sensoryprogram@azdhs.gov or call 602-364-2446. Please provide the trainer name, training type (hearing/vision), and training date.

Do I have to complete CEU's

No. The CEU requirements for both screeners and trainers was removed with the 2024 rule updates.

Training:

Where can I access the training schedule?

Please contact your district health office leadership or sensory@azaap.org for information on accessing the required training.

Participants will log on to the training site and access the complete course which can be watched asynchronously at their own pace. An in person equipment competency is the final component of the training and will be scheduled as needed with a trainer in the area.

There will be no cost to participants for training.

Will training be offered in person or online?

Both hearing and vision training are being presented in a hybrid format. Coursework and quiz are completed individually on the online platform then an in person equipment competency is the final component of the training and will be scheduled as needed with a trainer in the area.

Who can access the free training?

Training will be open to school support personnel, early childhood professionals, and members of the public interested in learning how to perform hearing and vision screenings. There will be no fee to participants for training. The Arizona Department of Health Services will pay the Contractor directly to carry out the scope of work.

What happens if I can't complete my hands-on portion within 30 days?

The Sensory Screening Program will make every effort to provide accessible hands-on opportunities within a 30 day timeline. Flexibility on this timeline may be extended on a case by case basis, if necessary. If you have concerns about not being able to meet the timeline please contact sensory@azaap.org.

How do I schedule screener recertification training?

The ADHS Sensory Screening Program is not currently offering a separate recertification training.

What changes were made to the ADHS Sensory Screener Training?

*In 2023 the ADHS Sensory Screening Program established a **free**, statewide hearing and vision screening training program and converted the hearing and vision screening curriculum to an online platform to make virtual training an option.*

All training for the ADHS screener certification will now be provided through the awarded contractor and subcontractor agreements rather than independent trainers.

Why were these changes made?

The Sensory Screening Program received feedback from the community that the hearing and vision training process was often expensive and difficult to access. This caused an undue burden to schools and community partners who are providing required screening services across the State of Arizona.

These changes make training more accessible and feasible for schools and community partners and further support the goals of the Sensory Screening Program.

Who will provide screener certificates? The ADHS or the Contractor?

Screener certificates will continue to be provided by the ADHS Sensory Screening Program.

What are the criteria to apply to become a Vision or Hearing Screening Trainer?

Information about becoming a trainer for your school or district can be found here: Screening Trainer Eligibility Information

Reporting:

Are vision screening reports required?

As of the 2024-2025 school year, both vision and hearing screening report submission are required for the schools required to perform screenings.

Hearing reports: *All Arizona schools*
Vision reports: *Arizona public and charter schools.*

Other programs are encouraged to voluntarily submit screening reports to support our data collection efforts.

Do we submit data for only the students specified in the rules?

The ADHS Sensory Screening program requests that data on all hearing and vision screenings be submitted regardless of the students' grade level or the screening requirements. Comprehensive data supports the Program's statewide screening improvement efforts.

When do I need to submit the annual report?

The ADHS Sensory Screening annual report is open for submission from April 1 - June 30 each year.

How to submit a hearing/vision screening annual report?

You can find links to templates to organize your report data and the online link to submit the reports on the Sensory Screening Program website: ADHS Sensory Screening Reporting

Sensory Loaner Equipment Program:

How do I reserve hearing and vision screening equipment?

The ADHS Sensory Screening Loaner Equipment program is available online for certified trainers and certified screeners to reserve and check out sensory equipment. Loaner sites throughout the state

including Phoenix, Flagstaff, Yuma and Tucson. To reserve sensory screening equipment from any of our loaner sites go to Online Equipment Reservations.

How long are equipment loans?

The standard loan duration is a maximum of 2 weeks. However, the Sensory Screening Program Manager may make individual accommodations on a case by case basis.