



Hearing/Vision Screening Updates for the 2022-2023 School Year

Hearing Screening

- *Conducting Hearing Screening:*
 - The ADHS State Sensory Screening Program hearing rules will continue as stated by [9 A.A.C 13, Article 1](#) for the 2022-2023 school year. Initial hearing screenings must occur among the required populations within 45 school days.
 - There are no longer any temporary program waivers or waivers issued by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS). All screenings must be conducted by ADHS Certified Hearing Screeners.
- *Rules:*
 - The Hearing Screening Rules are undergoing a mandatory 5 Year Review Process. This will allow the State to review how the rules are currently being implemented and if any changes should be made. Any feedback that was previously submitted to the Program has been forwarded to the Rules Department.
- *Training:*
 - The Program is still referring all those who are interested in getting hearing screening certified to contact an independent trainer. A list of independent trainers can be found on our [website](#).
 - ADHS Sensory Screening Program has finalized a Request for Proposal (RFP) Application and the solicitation was posted on Monday, August 15, 2022. This is to procure a statewide training vendor to coordinate and implement the training of trainers and screeners. This contract will make training more accessible statewide to all schools. Please [click here](#) to connect and to review materials and submit an offer for the solicitation. All offers must be received before September 7, 2022. If you have any questions or need technical assistance please reach out to Procurement Officer [Jacqueline Ortega-Avila](#) at jacqueline.ortega-avila@azdhs.gov.

Vision Screening

- *Rules:*
 - The Vision Screening Rules are still in **draft form** and are moving through the Rules process and will not be in place for the 2022-2023 School Year. This means that the Sensory Screening Program does **NOT** have official rules for vision screening. This means that there are **NO** requirements currently in place in regards to training, screening, or reporting of data to ADHS. Even though there are no requirements in place the ADHS Sensory Screening Program encourages all schools and agencies to continue performing annual vision screening as outlined by their school or agency.
- *Training:*
 - The Program is still referring all those who are interested in getting vision screening certified to contact an independent trainer. A list of independent trainers can be found on our [website](#).
 - ADHS Sensory Screening Program is working on a web-based vision screening curriculum which would allow those interested in getting vision screening certified to complete the course online. The Program is finalizing the curriculum and will post updates on how the public can access this training.
 - ADHS Sensory Screening Program has finalized a Request for Proposal (RFP) Application and the solicitation was posted on Monday, August 15, 2022. This is to procure a statewide training vendor to coordinate and implement the training of trainers and screeners. This contract will make training more accessible statewide to all schools. Please [click here](#) to connect and to review materials and submit an offer for the solicitation. All offers must be received before September 7, 2022. If you have any questions or need technical assistance please reach out to Procurement Officer [Jacqueline Ortega-Avila](#) at jacqueline.ortega-avila@azdhs.gov.
- *Recommendations for Conducting Vision Screening:*
 - The following table was put together through the recommendations set by the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (AAPOS), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Association of Certified Orthoptists (AACO), American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), and the National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health (NCCVEH) to clarify acceptable vision screening types among children.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>ANNUALLY</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Children ages 9 and younger (Preschool, Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>BIANNUALLY</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Children ages 10 and older (5th grade and up)</p>
<p>Distance Visual Acuity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HOTV Letters ● LEA Symbols ● Sloan Letters (Start using once child is 6 years of age) 	<p>Distance Visual Acuity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HOTV Letters ● LEA Symbols ● Sloan Letters (Start using once child is 6 years of age)
<p>Stereoacuity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Random Dot “E” ● Butterfly Test 	<p>Near Vision Acuity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HOTV Letters ● LEA Symbols
<p>Color Deficiency (only conducted once)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pseudoisochromatic plates 	

Instrument-based screening (autorefractors or photoscreeners) should only be used to screen the following population(s):

- Children between the ages of 1 and 6 years of age OR,
- Children over the age of 6 who cannot participate in chart-based screenings

The only acceptable autorefractors/photoscreeners are:

- Welch Allyn® Spot™ Vision Screener
- Plusoptix S12C Vision Screener
- Retinomax (Right Mfg. Co Ltd.- Tokyo, Japan)
- SureSight Vision Screener (SureSight) (Welch-Allyn, Inc.- Skaneateles Falls, NY) (Software version 2.25)

The Sensory Screening Program will provide continuous updates throughout the year based on programmatic updates, local trends, and statewide data. All questions and inquiries should be emailed to sensoryprogram@azdhs.gov.