

ADHS Sensory Screening Program **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

General Questions:

- What if I do not find my question, response and/or I require additional information?
 - Please write to sensoryprogram@azdhs.gov or call 602-364-2446 to obtain additional technical assistance.
 - All emails and phone calls will be answered Monday - Thursday between the hours of 10 AM to 1 PM.

- 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 Program website](#).

- Where can I locate the Hearing and Vision Screening Rules?
 - [Hearing Screening Rules](#)
 - [Vision Screening Mandate](#)

Implementation of Screening:

- What populations are required to be screened for Hearing & Vision?
 - The required **Hearing Screening** Population can be found in [9 A.A.C. 13 Article 1](#). Table 13.1 found on page 14 of the document outlines the populations.
 - **Vision Screening** does not have rules in place denoting the required populations that must be screened. However, we ask that you screen the same grade levels as hearing to be consistent.

- Do Special Education students have to be screened within 45 day of the start of school?
 - Please note hearing and vision screening for Special ED and IEP's as required by [A.R.S. Title 15, Chapter 7, Article 4 and A.A.C. R7-2-401](#).

- Do you know where I can find the revised hearing screening rules 9 A.A.C. 13, Article 1?
 - Hearing screenings Rules 9 A.A.C. 13, Article 1 became effective 7/3/19. Please click the link : https://apps.azsos.gov/public_services/Title_09/9-13.pdf

- Is Vision Screening mandatory for schools?
 - Currently, vision screening is optional. Senate Bill 1456: Child Hearing and Vision Program became effective 8/17/19. This bill requires vision screening of children in Arizona upon initial entry to school with two other subsequent screenings.

Vision screening is not mandatory until official rules are established under A.R.S. 36-899. Rulemaking for vision screening is currently in the process of being established.

- Do I need to be certified to conduct hearing and vision screenings?
 - Anyone administering hearing/vision screenings are required to complete training through an ADHS Certified Sensory Trainer. Non-certified individuals can perform hearing/vision screening under the direct supervision of an ADHS certified screener.

- For children who have special needs it can be challenging to perform hearing and vision screenings. What can be done in these situations?
 - Utilize the OAE and SPOT to try to obtain the screening data. It is also important to refer back to the physician for any documentation if available.

- If there is a child who passes vision with both eyes tested but when screening one eye at a time, they can see at 20/40 from one side would that be considered failing?
 - The referral criteria below if the child’s screening results show 20/40 in one or both eyes, then the child should be referred (“failed” screening). The referral Criteria for Distance and Near Vision (page 23 of Vision Screening Guidelines):
 - ◆ Worse than 20/40 – ages three to five in either or both eyes
 - ◆ Worse than 20/30 ages six and up in either or both eyes.
 - ◆ Or you have recorded the child as having a two line difference on the chart you are using.

- What are the recommended vision screening methods?
 - Vision screening/reporting is not mandatory for the 2021/22 school year, but we encourage all schools to screen and submit an annual vision report electronically.
 - Vision Screening Methods/Populations can be found in the table below:

<u>ANNUALLY</u>	<u>BIANNUALLY</u>
Children ages 9 and younger (Preschool, Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade)	Children ages 10 and older (5th grade and up)
Distance Visual Acuity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HOTV Letters ● LEA Symbols ● Sloan Letters (Start using once child is 6 years of age) 	Distance Visual Acuity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HOTV Letters ● LEA Symbols ● Sloan Letters (Start using once child is 6 years of age)
Stereoacuity	Near Vision Acuity

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Random Dot “E” ● Butterfly Test 	<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)
- Additional screenings beyond these guidelines are encouraged if time and resources are available. If at all possible, an annual vision screening is recommended up to and including children in fourth grade to identify vision problems early when correction and measures to preserve sight can be most effective.

Certification & CEU's:

- I took the hearing training before Rules 9 A.A.C. 13, Article 1 became effective, is my certificate still valid for 5 years?
 - The revised Hearing screenings Rules 9 A.A.C. 13, Article 1 became effective 7/3/19 and applies to all schools (public, charter and private) as defined in ARS §15-101. The requirements in R9-13-115 were added to allow individuals already certified to have a ‘period of time’ to renew their certification compliant with the revised requirements specified in amended R9-13-108. The ‘period of time’ to renew a certification began on July 3, 2019; the effective date of the new rules. In applying R9-13-115 you should renew your certification by June 30, 2020
 - Application of requirement in R9-13-115(B): If a screener’s certificate of completion expires after June 30, 2020, the screener whose certificate of completion includes pure tone audiometry or OAE and wishes to retain screener certificate of completion, shall complete training, examination, and assessment

specified in R9-13-108 prior to June 30, 2020. More information, refer page 13 of https://apps.azsos.gov/public_services/Title_09/9-13.pdf

- What are the validity of Hearing and Vision Certification:
 - Hearing Screening certifications will now be valid for 4 years along with completion of two CEUs per year. Vision screening certifications will now be valid for 5 years.

- Who would I contact if I didn't receive my certificate after the training?
 - Please email sensoryprogram@azdhs.gov or call 602-364-2446. Please provide the trainer name, training type (hearing/vision), training date and location of your training.

- I completed my hearing and vision training from an Independent Contractor trainer. When I can expect my certificate from ADHS Sensory Program?
 - Currently, ADHS Sensory Program is processing a certificate within 30 days from the date of receiving the training roster from the trainer.

- What is a CEU?
 - CEU stands for a Continuing Education Unit which is defined as a course that provides instruction and training that is designed to develop or improve a trainer or screener's professional competence. The course must be 50 to 60 minutes of continuous course work.

- How many CEUs do I have to complete?
 - All Hearing Trainers and Screeners are required to complete Continuing Education Units per A.A.C. R9-13-108 and R9-13-113.
 - ◆ Audiologist:
 - License is good for 2 years and must complete 20 CEUs over the course of the 2 year period.
 - ◆ Hearing Trainer:
 - License is good for 5 years and 10 CEUs must be completed each calendar year, which is a total of 50 CEUs.
 - ◆ Hearing Screener:
 - License is good for 4 years and 2 CEUs must be completed each calendar year, which is a total of 8 CEUs.

- What CEUs are acceptable for Hearing Trainers/Screeners?

- Any CEU developed, endorsed, or sponsored by one of the following organizations could count:
 - ◆ American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)
 - ◆ Hearing Healthcare Providers of Arizona
 - ◆ Arizona Speech-Language-Hearing Association
 - ◆ International Hearing Society
 - ◆ International Institute for Hearing Instruments Studies
 - ◆ American Auditory Society
 - ◆ American Academy of Audiology
 - ◆ Academy of Doctors of Audiology
 - ◆ Arizona Society of Otolaryngology, Head, and Neck Surgery
 - ◆ American Academy of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery OR
 - ◆ Any organization determined by the Department to be consistent with an organization mentioned above.

- What topic should the CEUs discuss?
 - Development of speech and language
 - Anatomy and physiology of the ear
 - Signs of hearing loss in children
 - Prevention of hearing loss in children
 - Otitis media
 - Infection Control
 - Auditory Development
 - Rationale for early identification of hearing loss
 - Audiometric equipment or testing techniques that demonstrate an improved ability to identify and evaluate hearing loss.
 - The type of equipment the screener is certified to use (Pure-Tone Audiometer, Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE), or Tympanometry)
 - Assistive listening devices
 - Ethics

- What do I do once I have completed the necessary CEUs?
 - Hearing Trainers/Screeners should maintain a record of their completed CEUs.
 - Per R9-13-112 Hearing Trainers must supply proof of completion to the Sensory Screening Program when renewing their training certification
 - Per R9-13-109 Hearing Screeners must supply proof of completion to the ADHS Certified Hearing Trainer when going to renew their hearing screener certification.

→ More information about this process will be forthcoming.

- What are the CEU requirements for Vision Trainers/Screeners?
 - There are currently NO requirements for Vision Trainers/Screeners to complete CEUs at this time.

Training:

- Does ADHS have any planned Hearing and/or Vision training?
 - ADHS Sensory Screening program will not be providing any Vision or Hearing Screening training until further notice. Alternative training can be provided by Independent Sensory Trainers. Independent trainers are not under ADHS contract. Reach out to an independent trainer to learn more about availability and cost of training. A list of countywide/statewide trainers is provided on our [website](#).
- How can we access training for screeners and trainers?
 - ADHS Sensory Screening Program is exploring opportunities to establish access to statewide training for trainers and screeners. Information and updates about training will be provided on the [ADHS Sensory Program website](#). Alternative training can be provided by Independent Sensory Trainers. Independent trainers are not under ADHS contract. Reach out to an independent trainer to learn more about availability and cost of training. A list of countywide/statewide trainers is provided on our [website](#).
- Just wanted to verify that I can teach the hearing training class over the course of two days?
 - Please read the A.R.S. R9-13-109 for trainer eligibility and certification requirements. Yes, you can split the units/modules into different days, but please make sure that it covers the full eight hours as prescribed in A.R.S. R9-13-108. The training completion date would be the date the last session is completed.

Reporting:

- How to submit a hearing/vision screening annual report?
 - Once you have entered the necessary information in the Report Form you will click "SUBMIT." Another screen will appear thanking you for your submission and you will be able to download a summary of your response. Please see the example listed below:



Hearing Screening Report 2020-2021 School Year

We thank you for your time spent taking this survey.
Your response has been recorded.

Below is a summary of your responses

[Download PDF](#)

This survey is only for new reports for School Year 2020-2021 and if changes need to be made for a report from a previous school year please contact the Sensory Screening Program at sensoryprogram@azdhs.gov. DO NOT RE-ENTER THE INFORMATION.

Sensory Loaner Equipment Program:

- How do I reserve hearing and vision screening equipment?
 - ADHS Sensory 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, Sedona, Yuma and Tucson. To reserve sensory screening equipment from any of our loaner sites go to [Online Equipment Reservations](#).
- Is there ever any way for us to reserve for longer than the two weeks?
 - ADHS Sensory program is currently approving equipment reservations for a max of 2 weeks.

Vision Kits:

- Are there any vision kits available?
 - YES!! The State of Arizona Sensory Screening Program ordered Vision Kits which was made possible by a generous donation from the Technical Assistance Partnership of Arizona.
 - Guidelines for distribution will be at the Program's discretion. Inventory is not guaranteed and is dependent upon available funding.
- Am I eligible to sign up for a Vision Kit?
 - The following criteria must be met:
 - ◆ Must be a School District or Charter School that provides instruction in preschool or kindergarten programs and grades one through twelve, or any combination of those programs or grades.

- ◆ Have at least one representative that is currently an ADHS Certified Vision Screener.
 - ◆ School(s) must NOT have already received a Vision Kit through the Sensory Screening Program.
- What if I am an individual or organization wanting to sign up for a Vision Kit?
 - The current funding received for the purchase of the Vision Kits is limited to providing the kits to schools.
- What is in the Vision Kit?
 - The Vision Kit is obtained through School Health and contains the following:
 - ◆ AAPOS Vision Screening Kit: Supplemental Screening Package
 - ◆ LEA Symbols Proportional-Spaced Set
 - ◆ Sloan Letters Proportionally-Spaced 9" x 14", 10 Ft. Distance Chart
 - ◆ Hand Pointers, 15"
 - ◆ Tape Measure
 - ◆ Eyes Checked Stickers - 100/Roll
- Are Vision Kits being provided to individual ADHS Certified Vision Screeners?
 - The Sensory Screening Program is no longer supplying Vision Kits to individual ADHS Certified Vision Screeners except for those individuals who were placed on the 2020 waitlist. Moving forward the Vision Kits will be disseminated to School Districts/Charter Holders based upon the number of schools.
- How does our School District/Charter Holder obtain a Vision Kit?
 - **One** person from the School District/Charter Holder should sign up to receive a Vision Kit for each of the schools within the district or charter. School Districts/Charter Holders can sign up [here](#) starting September 16, 2021-October 31, 2021.
- How many Vision Kits can the School District/Charter Holder receive?
 - The ADHS Sensory Screening Program has a limited number of Vision Kit(s) available for Districts/Charter Holders. We ask that the District/Charter Holder sign up for one Vision Kit per school. The Sensory Screening Program will do its best to accommodate this.
- When and where can I pick up a Vision Kit?
 - If you have been approved for a Vision Kit you will receive a letter with information on how many Vision Kits you will receive and the pick up instructions.
 - The Vision Kits can be picked up every Wednesday between 9 AM to 3 PM at:

Arizona Department of Health Services
 150 N. 18th Avenue, Suite 320
 Phoenix, AZ 85007
 (602) 364-2446

- What happens if my School's Vision Kit goes missing or is damaged?
 - ADHS is not responsible for any lost or damaged Vision Kits after they have been picked up.

Additional Resources:

1. Resources for eye exams/prescription glasses:

- a. Please click the link to the Medical Service Project funded by the Arizona Department of Health Services that is administered by the Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.
<https://www.azdhs.gov/prevention/womens-childrens-health/ocshcn/index.php#medical-service-project>
- b. Lions Clubs International provides financial assistance to individuals for eye care through its local clubs. Please click the link to see the club locator near you :
<https://directory.lionsclubs.org/>
- c. Sight for Students, a Vision Service Plan (VSP) program, provides eye free exams and free glasses to low-income, uninsured children. The program operates nationally through a network of community partners who identify children in need and VSP network eye doctors who provide the services. More Info: Please click the link below:
<https://vspglobal.com/cms/vspglobal-outreach/gift-certificates.html>
- d. New Eyes is a non-profit, non-sectarian volunteer organization that purchases new eyeglasses for poor children and adults in the United States. Please click the link below: <https://new-eyes.org/>

2. A list of resources for hearing screening and hearing aids:

- a. Is the child enrolled in an AHCCCS or Kids Care Plan?
 - i. If NOT, they are eligible for other programs listed below based on their criteria. In case they are already enrolled, the child may be eligible for hearing services through Children's Rehabilitative Services (CRS). More Information:
<https://www.azahcccs.gov/AHCCCS/Initiatives/CareCoordination/CRS.htm>
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- b. Hear for Kids: HEAR for Kids is a program of the EAR Foundation of Arizona. Eligibility is based on family income, household size/dependent care, and expenses. If the child is covered by AHCCCS or Kids Care or other insurance that covers hearing aids, they are not eligible for HEAR for Kids. Children must be currently living in Arizona to be eligible. Applications can be downloaded on the EAR Foundation website at www.earfoundationaz.com
- c. United HealthCare Children's Foundation: Applications and further information on criteria and services can be found at the link below or by calling 1 (855-698-4223). Website: www.uhccf.org
- d. Starkey Foundation's HEAR Now Program: application process / more info call 1(800) 328-9602 Website: www.sotheworldmayhear.org
- e. Lions Affordable Hearing Aid Program (AHAP) : More info and eligibility :

<https://temp.lionsclubs.org/SW/pdfs/lcif/lcif127.pdf>. You can also contact a club near you by going to the Lions International website: www.lionsclubs.org

- f. Sertoma Clubs: There are some Sertoma clubs in Arizona. More info, please visit their website: <https://sertoma.org/> or call: 816-333-8300
 - g. Help America Hear: Help America Hear is proud to offer the Help America Hear Program which provides NEW high quality hearing aids Nationwide to men, women, and children with limited financial resources. More Info and eligibility, please visit: <https://helpamericahear.org/> or call : 888) 580-8886
3. **Please visit ADHS Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs website for additional resources and information:**
<https://www.azdhs.gov/prevention/womens-childrens-health/ocshcn/index.php>