



DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICES

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

In 1971, the Arizona Legislature mandated hearing screening for school-aged children in all Arizona Schools.

Arizona schools are required to submit annual hearing screening reports on children screened during each school year. The Sensory Program collects the reports, reviews them for correctness and completion, and inputs data from the hearing screening reports. The data is used to prepare various statistical reports, mass mailings, and determine compliance with hearing screening mandates for school children.

Along with hearing screenings, the Sensory Program provides information to Arizona schools on vision screening for school-aged children. Although vision screening is not a mandated function, the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) recommends it. The ADHS takes the lead for developing the **Recommended Vision Screening Guidelines**. The vision screening guidelines were developed from focus groups comprised of health professionals in ophthalmology, optometry, nursing, and others with extensive experience in vision screening. The **Recommended Vision Screening Guidelines** are available to Arizona schools.

You can OPT out of screening your child at school. If you choose to OPT your child out of yearly screenings, you must provide the medical results from your physician to your child's school every school year they do not participate.

The screening results will only be accepted on stationary with your physician's information on it along with your physician's signature.

Our school district must complete the student's vision and hearing screenings within the first 45 days of school. The screenings will begin on July 25th. of each school year. If you choose to OPT out of having your child screened, you must return the signed waiver to the health office prior to July 25th.

If you have any questions regarding this, you can contact the Bureau of Women's and Children's health at (602) 364-1496.

Thank you.
Christina Conte, RN
Director of Vail School District Health Services