

MA Mandated Screenings

The following school screenings are mandated by Massachusetts state law (M.G.L. c.71, s.57 and 105 CMR 200.000) and are conducted according to the following schedule:

- Vision screenings screening: each year for students in grades pre K, K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 10
- Hearing screening: each year for students in grades K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and 10
- Heights and weights are measured and BMI is calculated for students in grades 1, 4, 7, and 10. Aggregate data reported to the state as mandated. Individual student data is not reported but is recorded in the confidential student health record.
- Postural screenings: each year for all students in grades 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9
- SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral to Treatment): each year for students in grades 7 and 10

Per MA 105 CMR 200.000, the purpose of mandated screenings is to “identify and take appropriate actions with respect to disabilities and medical conditions of school children in public schools as soon as possible so as to enable all children to obtain the fullest benefit of their educational opportunities ...” Screenings are a tool used for referral for further care and should not be considered diagnostic. Letters will be mailed home if follow-up for vision, hearing, or postural screening is recommended. BMI data is available by parent request to the nurse.

Hearing and vision screenings are conducted in the health office by school nurses and other trained personnel.

In order for a student to be excused from vision, hearing, height, weight or SBIRT screening(s), the parent/guardian must make an opt-OUT request in writing to the school nurse each year.

For postural screenings, parents must opt-IN if they would like their child to be screened at school - an opt-in opportunity will be provided to parents of affected students annually.