

Important Information About Student Health Screenings

Connecticut State Statute § 10-214 mandates that students be screened for potential barriers to education in the schools. The school nurse is responsible for conducting and overseeing these screenings. The Connecticut State Department of Education requires that schools conduct the following health screenings for students in grades K–5 and grades 7 and 8:

Screening Type	Purpose	Procedure
Vision Screening performed in grades K-1 and grades 3-5 Screenings are conducted throughout the school year.	The purpose of vision screening is to identify possible vision problems and to refer students for possible treatment, in order to reduce vision loss, especially amblyopia, at a very young age, before it interferes with the learning process. The screening is not an eye examination, and does not replace an eye examination; the screening will not detect all potential vision disorders or diseases.	The screening will be performed in a quiet area free from distracting influences and selected for testing visual acuity. If a student does not pass an initial screening, they will receive a second screening. If concerns continue to be observed, parents/guardians will be notified by a referral letter.
Hearing Screening performed in grades K-1 and grades 3-5 Screenings are conducted throughout the school year	The purpose of audiometric screening is to identify students with potential hearing loss and refer for treatment or intervention.	Screening will be performed in an environment sufficiently quiet for a student to hear the test stimuli at the screening levels. If a student does not pass an initial screening, they will receive a second screening. If concerns continue to be observed, parents/guardians will be notified by a referral letter.

Scoliosis Screening performed: • Female students in 5th and 7th grade • male students in 8th grade Screening are conducted during the spring semester	The purpose of this screening program is early identification of postural abnormalities so that treatment can be initiated.	Boys and girls will be screened separately. • Each student will be screened individually and in private. • The entire back, from shoulders to hips, will be visible to the screener * Boys will be required to remove shirts and to lower pants to hips, or wear gym shorts, so that waistline and hips can be observed. • Girls will be observed wearing a two-piece bathing suit top or bra and will be required to lower pants to hips, or wear gym shorts, so that waistline and hips can be observed. <u>Students who have been screened by their primary care provider and/or are receiving specialist care (such as, from their orthopedic surgeon) for spine deformity and show documentation that it has been done may be excused from school screening.</u> If any concerns are observed during the screenings, parents/guardians will be notified by referral letter.
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References:

Connecticut State Department of Education. *Draft Guidelines for Health Screenings: Vision, Hearing and Scoliosis.* August 2018.

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Lists/Publications/Health>