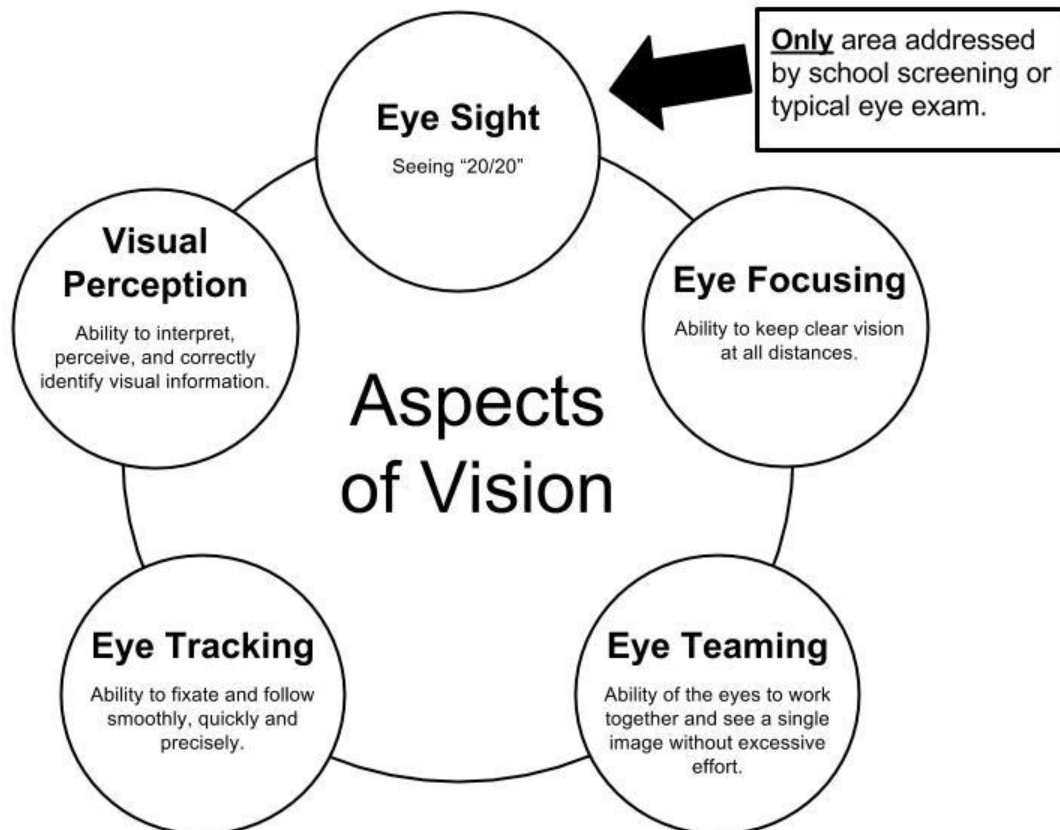


How Vision Affects Learning

- **75-90%** of school instruction is presented visually.
- School vision screenings detect only **20-30%** of vision problems.
- **25% of ALL** children have a vision problem significant enough to affect their performance in school. As many as 60% of children with learning problems may have an undiagnosed visual deficit.
- The 20/20 eye chart test (invented in the 1860s) only measures what you can see far away, **not the “up-close” ability to see books or computers**, nor the ability of the eyes and brain to work together in processing visual information.
- Reading comprehension, memory, directionality, visualization and math are **visually linked skills**. If visual processing is faulty, these skills will be weak.
- An **Optometrist** is a specialist in the neurological process of VISION. An **Ophthalmologist** is a medical doctor who focuses on the health and surgery of the eye.

A functional vision exam tests the ENTIRE visual system, and is performed by a **Developmental Optometrist**.



What is included in a functional vision exam?

A functional vision evaluation generally takes 60-90 minutes and includes a series of tests based on the patient's individual needs.

The doctor will first review the patient's health and eye history, with emphasis on any visual problems and symptoms. This information is used to tailor the functional visit test, which includes test on a wide range of visual skills.



Symptom checklist:

Score 1=Seldom, 2=Occasionally, 3=Frequently, 4=Always

Headaches from near work	
Words slide together or get blurry when reading	
Reads below grade level	
Loses place when reading	
Head tilt/closes one eye when reading	
Difficulty copying from the board	
Avoids near work/reading/writing	
Omits small words when reading	
Writes uphill or downhill	
Burning, itching, or watery eyes	
Reading comprehension difficulty	
Holds reading material too close	
Hard to maintain attention while reading	
Difficulty completing assignments on time	
Always says "I can't" before trying	
Clumsy, knocks things over	
Homework takes too long	
Daydreams	
In trouble for being off task at school	
TOTAL	

A score of **20 or more** indicates a need for a functional vision exam

Where can I get my student tested?

An **Optometrist** who is an associate or fellow of the College of Optometrist in Vision Development (COVD).
Go to **locate.covd.org** to find a practitioner in your area.