



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JANET OLSZEWSKI
DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 1, 2009

TO: Principals and Superintendents of all Michigan Public, Private and Parochial Schools

SUBJECT: VISION SCREENING and REPORTING FOR KINDERGARTEN

Public Health Code Act 368 of 1978, Section 9307 states that “a parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis applying to have a child registered for the first time in a kindergarten or first grade in a school in this state **shall present to school officials, at the time of registration or not later than the first day of school,** a certificate of hearing and vision testing or screening or statements of exception under Section 9311”. Your local health department offers this screening at no cost to families and children.

The Revised School Code (Act 451 of 1976, section 380.1177) requires that children entering kindergarten **present a statement to school officials** confirming that they have received the Michigan Department of Community Health Vision Screening. A statement, signed by a licensed eye care practitioner (optometrist or ophthalmologist) or medical/osteopathic physician, indicating that a child’s eyes have been examined at least once after age three and **before initial school entry** may also be presented.

School officials are required to enter vision screening data into the MCIR system for all kindergarten or developmental kindergarten new entrants by November 1 of each year. Vision screening information is recorded on the immunization data entry screen. A separate report to MDCH is no longer required.

If you or your support personnel responsible for entering vision screening data have questions regarding this requirement, please contact your local health department’s Vision Screening Program or Dr. Rachel Schumann, Vision Program Consultant for the Michigan Department of Community Health, at 517-335-6596.

On behalf of the children of Michigan, our thanks for helping ensure that all Michigan children have good vision for success in learning and life.