

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

HOUSE BILL 2382

By: Cargill

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; requiring certain students to present certificate of vision screening in order to enroll in school; requiring children who fail the vision screening to undergo a comprehensive eye examination; stating components of a comprehensive eye examination; directing the comprehensive eye examiner to forward a report of the exam to certain persons; listing contents of the report; stipulating that school attendance is not prohibited for failure to present report of a vision screening or comprehensive eye examination; requiring school districts to notify parents or legal guardians of the screening requirements; directing the State Department of Education to submit an annual report; requiring the State Department of Health to identify and train persons to perform the vision screenings; directing the State Board of Health and State Board of Education to promulgate rules; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.195 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, within thirty (30) days of the start of the school year the parent or legal guardian of each child entering kindergarten shall present to the school district certification that the child, within the previous twelve (12) months, has passed a vision screening conducted by personnel approved by the State Department of Health.

B. Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, within thirty (30) days of the start of the school year the parent or legal guardian of each child entering grades one and three shall present to the school district certification that the child, within the previous six (6)

months passed a vision screening conducted by personnel approved by the State Department of Health.

C. Children who have failed the vision screening required in subsections A and B of this section shall be required to undergo a comprehensive eye examination performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist.

D. For purposes of this section, a comprehensive eye examination shall include at a minimum the following:

1. Measurement of visual acuity;
2. Ocular alignment and motility;
3. Depth perception - stereopsis;
4. Fusion;
5. Slit lamp;
6. Examination of the anterior segment and pupils; and
7. Cycloplegic refraction and dilated fundus examination.

E. Any person who conducts a comprehensive eye examination on a child for purposes of school enrollment as provided for in this section shall forward a copy of a written report of the results to the parent or guardian of the child, the school district in which the child is enrolling or is enrolled, and to the primary health care provider for the child. The report shall include, but is not limited to, the following information:

1. Date of report;
2. Name, address, and date of birth of the child;
3. Name of the school district in which the child is enrolling or is enrolled;
4. Type of examination;
5. A summary of significant finding, including diagnoses, medication used, duration of action of medication, treatment, prognosis, whether or not a return visit is recommended, and if so, when;

6. Recommended educational adjustments for the child, if any, which may include preferential seating in the classroom, eyeglasses for full-time use in school, eyeglasses for part-time use in school, sight-saving eyeglasses, or any other recommendations; and

7. Name, address, and signature of the examiner.

F. No child shall be excluded for enrolling or attending school for the failure to furnish certification of vision screening as provided for in subsections A and B of this section or a report of the results of a comprehensive eye examination as provided for in subsection E of this section. If a certificate or report is not filed for a child, the school district shall notify the parent or guardian in writing of the required examination.

G. The State Department of Education shall issue an annual report on the impact and effectiveness of the vision screening requirements of this section.

H. The State Department of Health shall work with the State Department of Education on identifying persons qualified to conduct the vision screenings and training individuals to conduct the screenings.

I. The State Board of Health shall promulgate rules establishing vision screening standards for the screening required pursuant to this section.

J. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules necessary to implement the provisions of this act.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2006.

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