

Vision and Hearing Screening

TITLE 77: PUBLIC HEALTH
CHAPTER I: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
SUBCHAPTER j: VISION AND HEARING
PART 675 HEARING SCREENING
SECTION 675.110 FREQUENCY OF SCREENING

Section 675.110 Frequency of Screening

- a) Hearing screening services shall be provided annually for all preschool children three years of age or older in any public or private educational program or licensed child care facility.
- b) Hearing screening services shall be provided annually for all school age children who are in grades K (kindergarten), 1, 2, and 3; are in any special education class; have been referred by a teacher; or are transfer students. These screening services shall be provided in all public, private, and parochial schools. Hearing screening is recommended in grades 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12.
- c) In lieu of the screening services required in subsections (a) and (b) of this Section, a completed and signed report form, indicating that the child has had an ear examination by a physician and an audiological evaluation completed by an audiologist within the previous 12 months is acceptable.
- d) In cases of known hearing loss, an audiological evaluation completed by an audiologist within the previous 12 months may be accepted instead of threshold monitoring services.
- e) Hearing screening services in public, private and parochial schools shall be provided annually for all special education children using screening methods contained in Section 675.120 of this Part.
- f) The parent or legal guardian of a student may object to hearing screening tests for their children on religious grounds. If a religious objection is made, a written and signed statement from the parent or legal guardian detailing such objections must be presented to the local school authority. General philosophical or moral reluctance to allow hearing screening will not provide a sufficient basis for an exception to statutory requirements.

(Source: Amended at 24 Ill. Reg. 4956, effective March 20, 2000)

TITLE 77: PUBLIC HEALTH
CHAPTER I: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
SUBCHAPTER j: VISION AND HEARING
PART 685 VISION SCREENING
SECTION 685.110 FREQUENCY OF SCREENING

Section 685.110 Frequency of Screening

- a) Vision screening services shall be provided annually for:
 - 1) All preschool children 3 years of age (or older) in any public or private educational program or licensed child-care facility.
 - 2) All school age children who are in kindergarten, second and eighth grades; in all special education classes; referred by teachers; and transfer students. Vision screening is recommended in grades 4, 6, 10 and 12. Such screening services shall be provided in all public, independent, private and parochial schools.
- b) In lieu of the screening services required in subsection (a) of this Section, a completed and signed report form, indicating that an eye examination by an M.D. specializing in diseases of the eye or a licensed optometrist has been administered within the previous 12 months, is acceptable.
- c) The parent or legal guardian of a student may object to vision screening tests for their child on religious grounds. If a religious objection is made, a written and signed statement from the parent or legal guardian detailing such objections must be presented to the screening entity.

(Source: Amended at 23 Ill. Reg. 4278, effective March 26, 1999)

In Unit 5, vision screening is conducted by certificated school nurses who have successfully completed the certification process of the Illinois Department of Health.

Referral letters are sent to the parents/guardians of students who fail the vision and/or hearing re-screening. Results of the screenings are posted by the nurses on the covers of the blue health folders and/or on the computer.

Nurses annually report vision and hearing screening results to the Illinois Department of Human Services.