



DATE: April 8, 2015

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Dr. Thomas Pendergrass, MD, MSPH

SUBJECT: BRIEFING: VISION SCREENING

Background and Summary:

The Washington State Board of Health has the duty under RCW 28A.210.020 to define and adopt rules for vision screening for pupils in school. Chapter 246-760 WAC lists the standards for school districts to use to conduct vision and auditory screening.

A CR-101 (WSR 15-05-083) was filed on February 18, 2015, which proposes to update the rule to bring it more in line with vision screening recommendations the Board accepted in 2007. The recommendations were created as a result of the passage of SHB 1951 in 2005, which directed establishment of an expert workgroup to reevaluate vision screening of school children. When the report was published there was a rules moratorium, and subsequently staff resources were not available. Early in 2014, a survey of school nurses was conducted to learn more about their vision screening practice and issues. Late in 2014, vision care providers and others who had originally served on the SHB 1951 expert workgroup, were brought together to review the survey results and reevaluate their original recommendations.

Today you will have an opportunity to learn more about recommended changes to the vision screening rule, and next steps. I have invited Maria Nardella, Department of Health, Robin Fleming, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Tara Wolff, State Board of Health to make a presentation and answer questions.

Staff Contact:

Tara Wolff