

AUDITORY AND VISUAL STANDARDS—SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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246-760-001

What is the purpose of these rules?

These rules implement chapter 32, Laws of 1971. Under this chapter, each board of school directors in the state shall provide for and require screening of the auditory and visual acuity of children attending schools in their districts to determine if any children have defects sufficient to retard them in their studies. Each board of school directors shall establish procedures to implement these rules.

[Statutory Authority: RCW [28A.210.200](#). WSR 02-20-079, § 246-760-001, filed 9/30/02, effective 10/31/02. Statutory Authority: RCW [43.20.050](#) and 28A.210.020. WSR 92-02-019 (Order 225B), § 246-760-001, filed 12/23/91, effective 1/23/92. Statutory Authority: RCW [43.20.050](#). WSR 91-02-051 (Order 124B), recodified as § 246-760-001, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91; Order 63, § 248-144-010 (codified as WAC 248-148-010), filed 11/1/71.]

246-760-020

How frequently must schools screen children?

Schools shall conduct auditory and visual screening of children:

(1) In kindergarten and grades one, two, three, five, and seven; and
(2) For any child showing symptoms of possible loss in auditory or visual acuity referred to the district by parents, guardians, or school staff.

(3) If resources permit, schools shall annually screen children at other grade levels.

[Statutory Authority: RCW [28A.210.200](#). WSR 02-20-079, § 246-760-020, filed 9/30/02, effective 10/31/02. Statutory Authority: RCW [43.20.050](#). WSR 91-02-051 (Order 124B), recodified as § 246-760-020, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW [28A.31.030](#). WSR 87-22-010 (Order 306), § 248-148-021, filed 10/26/87.]

246-760-070

What visual acuity screening equipment must be used?

Personnel conducting the screening must use a Snellen test chart for screening for distance central vision acuity. Either the Snellen E chart or the standard Snellen distance acuity chart may be used as appropriate to the child's age and abilities. The test chart must be properly illuminated and glare free.

Other screening procedures equivalent to the Snellen test may be used only if approved by the state board of health.

[Statutory Authority: RCW [28A.210.200](#). WSR 02-20-079, § 246-760-070, filed 9/30/02, effective 10/31/02. Statutory Authority: RCW [43.20.050](#). WSR 91-02-051 (Order 124B), recodified as § 246-760-070, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW [28A.31.030](#). WSR 87-22-010 (Order 306), § 248-148-121, filed 10/26/87.]

246-760-080

What are the visual acuity screening procedures?

(1) Schools shall:

(a) Screen children with corrective lenses for distance viewing with their corrective lenses on;

(b) Place the results of screening, any referrals, and referral results in each student's health and/or school record; and

(c) Forward the results to the student's new school if the student transfers.

(2) If school personnel observe a child with other signs or symptoms related to eye problems and if the signs or symptoms negatively influence the child in his or her studies, school personnel shall refer the child to the parents or guardians for professional care.

[Statutory Authority: RCW [28A.210.200](#). WSR 02-20-079, § 246-760-080, filed 9/30/02, effective 10/31/02. Statutory Authority: RCW [43.20.050](#). WSR 91-02-051 (Order 124B), recodified as § 246-760-080, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW [28A.31.030](#). WSR 87-22-010 (Order 306), § 248-148-123, filed 10/26/87.]

246-760-090

What are the visual acuity screening referral procedures?

Schools shall rescreen students having a visual acuity of 20/40 or less in either eye as determined by the Snellen test or its approved equivalent within two weeks or as soon as possible after the original screening. Failure is indicated by the inability to identify the majority of letters or symbols on the thirty foot line of the test chart at a distance of twenty feet.

Schools shall inform parents or guardians of students failing the second screening, in writing, of the need and importance for the child to receive professional care.

[Statutory Authority: RCW [28A.210.200](#). WSR 02-20-079, § 246-760-090, filed 9/30/02, effective 10/31/02. Statutory Authority: RCW [43.20.050](#). WSR 91-02-051 (Order 124B), recodified as § 246-760-090, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW [28A.31.030](#). WSR 87-22-010 (Order 306), § 248-148-131, filed 10/26/87.]

246-760-100

What are the qualifications for visual screening personnel?

(1) Screening must be performed in a manner consistent with RCW [28A.210.020](#) by persons competent to administer screening procedures as a function of their professional training and background or special training and demonstrated competence under supervision.

(2) Technicians and nonprofessional volunteers must have adequate preparation and thorough understanding of the tests as demonstrated by their performance under supervision.

(3) Supervision, training, reporting and referral shall be the responsibility of a professional person specifically designated by the school administration. He or she may be a school nurse or public health nurse, a special educator, teacher or administrator who possesses basic knowledge of the objectives and methods of visual acuity screening, supervisory experience and ability, demonstrated ability to teach others and demonstrated capacity to work well with people.

[Statutory Authority: RCW [28A.210.020](#). WSR 10-15-100, § 246-760-100, filed 7/20/10, effective 8/20/10.
Statutory Authority: RCW [28A.210.200](#). WSR 02-20-079, § 246-760-100, filed 9/30/02, effective 10/31/02.
Statutory Authority: RCW [43.20.050](#). WSR 91-02-051 (Order 124B), recodified as § 246-760-100, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91; Order 63, § 248-144-150 (codified as WAC 248-148-150), filed 11/1/71.]