



DATE: August 10, 2016

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Dr. Thomas Pendergrass, MD, MSPH

SUBJECT: BRIEFING – CHAPTER 246-760 WAC 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 practices and issues. Late in 2014 vision care providers and others who had originally served on the original expert workgroup were brought together to review the survey results and reevaluate their original recommendations. During the 2016 legislative session SB 6245 passed, requiring schools to screen for near vision acuity in addition to far vision acuity which was already required in Board rule.

In July of 2016 the Board send out a preliminary draft of Chapter 246-760 WAC to stakeholders for feedback. There is an opportunity to respond to these comments and incorporate feedback as appropriate into the draft rule before the CR-102 is filed.

Today you will have an opportunity to hear about the proposed changes to the vision screening rule, a summary of stakeholder feedback on the preliminary draft of the rule, and next steps. I have invited Ellen Silverman, Ellie McMillian, and Cori Tarzwell, Department of Health, and Sierra Rotakhina, State Board of Health, to provide a presentation and answer questions.

Staff Contact:
Sierra Rotakhina