

This informal feedback period is intended to inform the working draft of Chapter 246-760 WAC as it relates to school-based vision screening standards. Please provide any feedback to the State Board of Health by emailing wsboh@sboh.wa.gov with the subject line "school-based vision screening" by **Friday July 22, 2016.**

WAC 246-760-001 ~~What is the purpose of these rules?~~ Purpose and application of auditory and visual screening standards for school districts.

~~These rules implement chapter 32, Laws of 1971. Under this chapter, each~~ 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~~ demonstrate auditory or visual problems that may negatively impact their learning. 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,

This informal feedback period is intended to inform the working draft of Chapter 246-760 WAC as it relates to school-based vision screening standards. Please provide any feedback to the State Board of Health by emailing wsboh@sboh.wa.gov with the subject line "school-based vision screening" by **Friday July 22, 2016.**

effective 1/31/91; Order 63, § 248-144-010 (codified as WAC 248-148-010), filed 11/1/71.]

NEW SECTION

WAC 246-760-010 Definitions, abbreviations, and acronyms. The definitions, abbreviations, and acronyms in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "AAPOS" or "American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus" means the national organization that advances the quality of children's eye care, supports the training of pediatric ophthalmologists, supports research activities in pediatric ophthalmology, and advances the care of adults with strabismus.

(2) "Board" means the Washington State Board of Health;

(3) "Distance vision", or "distance visual acuity", means the ability of the eye to see images clearly at a calibrated distance.

(4) "HOTV letters" means a test using the letters H, O, T, and V calibrated of a certain size used to assess visual acuity.

This informal feedback period is intended to inform the working draft of Chapter 246-760 WAC as it relates to school-based vision screening standards. Please provide any feedback to the State Board of Health by emailing wsboh@sboh.wa.gov with the subject line "school-based vision screening" by **Friday July 22, 2016.**

(5) "LEA vision test(s)" means a test using LEA symbols or numbers to measure visual acuity.

(6) "Licensed vision care professional" means a licensed ophthalmologist, optometrist, or optician.

(7) "Near vision" means the ability of the human eye to see objects with clarity at close range, also termed near point acuity or near acuity.

(8) "Optotype" means figures or letters of different sizes used in testing visual acuity.

(9) "Referral" means written notification to the student's parents or guardians that the child had failed the screening and emphasizing the need for and importance of professional care.

(10) "School nurse" means a registered nurse acting as the lead health professional in a school whose specialized practice and attendant tasks and activities advance student health, well-being and

This informal feedback period is intended to inform the working draft of Chapter 246-760 WAC as it relates to school-based vision screening standards. Please provide any feedback to the State Board of Health by emailing wsboh@sboh.wa.gov with the subject line "school-based vision screening" by **Friday July 22, 2016.**

achievement; and conforms to Washington State educational and nursing laws according to Chapter 18.79 RCW, Chapter 246-840 WAC and WAC 181-79A-223.

(11) "Sloan letters" means a test using ten specially formed letters which include C, D, H, K, N, O, R, S, V and Z to assess visual acuity.

(12) "Visual acuity" refers to the ability of the visual system to discern fine distinctions in the environment as measured with printed or projected visual stimuli.

This informal feedback period is intended to inform the working draft of Chapter 246-760 WAC as it relates to school-based vision screening standards. Please provide any feedback to the State Board of Health by emailing wsboh@sboh.wa.gov with the subject line "school-based vision screening" by **Friday July 22, 2016.**

~~WAC 246-760-020 How frequently must schools screen children? Fre-~~
quency for schools to screen children. Schools shall conduct auditory and distance and near visual ~~vision~~ 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, or student self-report.

(3) If resources permitted ~~are available,~~ schools shall ~~annually screen children at~~ may expand vision screening to all other grades lev-
els and may include other optional vision screenings.

[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.]

This informal feedback period is intended to inform the working draft of Chapter 246-760 WAC as it relates to school-based vision screening standards. Please provide any feedback to the State Board of Health by emailing wsboh@sboh.wa.gov with the subject line "school-based vision screening" by **Friday July 22, 2016**.

~~WAC 246-760-070 What visual acuity screening equipment must be used?~~

~~**Vision Screening.** 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.~~

~~(1) Schools shall conduct all vision screening using tools and procedures that are language, developmentally and age-appropriate. For distance and near vision screening schools shall use screening tools identified in WAC 246-760-071.~~

~~(1)(2) Schools shall conduct vision screening according to the tool's instructions and screening protocol and consistent with AAPOS and National Association of School Nurse guidance.~~

This informal feedback period is intended to inform the working draft of Chapter 246-760 WAC as it relates to school-based vision screening standards. Please provide any feedback to the State Board of Health by emailing wsboh@sboh.wa.gov with the subject line "school-based vision screening" by **Friday July 22, 2016.**

NEW SECTION

WAC 246-760-071 Required vision screening tools. Approved standardized distance and near vision screening tools by grade as well as rescreening and referral criteria are as follows:

Purpose of Screening	Grade	Screening Tool(s)	Re-screening and Referral Criteria
Distance	Kindergarten	LEA vision test, Single LEA Symbol (at 5 feet) or HOTV letter	Visual acuity of less than 20/40
Distance	Grade one	LEA vision test, Single LEA Symbol (at 5 feet) or HOTV letter	Visual acuity of less than 20/32 in either eye
Distance	Grades two and above	LEA vision tests, LEA Symbols or Numbers; HOTV Letters; or Sloan Letters	Visual acuity of less than 20/32 in either eye
Near	Kindergarten	HOTV; LEA vision test, LEA Symbols Near Vision; or Sloan Letters	Visual acuity of less than 20/40 in either eye.
Near	Grade one and above	HOTV; LEA vision test, LEA Symbols Near Vision; or Sloan Letters	Visual acuity of less than 20/32 in either eye.

This informal feedback period is intended to inform the working draft of Chapter 246-760 WAC as it relates to school-based vision screening standards. Please provide any feedback to the State Board of Health by emailing wsboh@sboh.wa.gov with the subject line "school-based vision screening" by **Friday July 22, 2016.**

[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.]

WAC 246-760-080 ~~What are the visual acuity screening procedures?~~ Vision 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 a student fails the first vision screening test, and the test was conducted by lay volunteers, the school nurse, principal or

This informal feedback period is intended to inform the working draft of Chapter 246-760 WAC as it relates to school-based vision screening standards. Please provide any feedback to the State Board of Health by emailing wsboh@sboh.wa.gov with the subject line "school-based vision screening" by **Friday July 22, 2016**.

his or her designee shall rescreen the student within two weeks or as soon as possible after the original screening.

(3) If the student fails the first vision screening test, and the test was conducted by volunteers who are licensed vision care professionals, the school may rescreen the student at the discretion of the school nurse, school principal or his or her designee.

(4) If a child fails an initial or second screening, the school shall notify the parent or guardian. This written referral shall include the screening results and language recommending that:

(a) The parent or guardian take the child to a licensed vision care professional to receive a comprehensive eye examination; and

(b) An appropriate remedy, such as corrective lenses, be obtained.

(5) Only the school nurse, the school principal or his or her designee may notify a child's parent or guardian in order to refer the

This informal feedback period is intended to inform the working draft of Chapter 246-760 WAC as it relates to school-based vision screening standards. Please provide any feedback to the State Board of Health by emailing wsboh@sboh.wa.gov with the subject line "school-based vision screening" by **Friday July 22, 2016.**

student for professional care. A school nurse, principal or his or her designee shall notify parents or guardians in writing that their child appears to have a vision problem and should be evaluated by a licensed vision care professional when:

(a) The student fails vision screening tests conducted under WAC 246-760-071; or

~~(2)(b7) If The school personnel nurse, school principal or his or her designee observes a child with other signs or symptoms related to eye problems and if the signs or symptoms that negatively influence affect the childstudent 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.]

This informal feedback period is intended to inform the working draft of Chapter 246-760 WAC as it relates to school-based vision screening standards. Please provide any feedback to the State Board of Health by emailing wsboh@sboh.wa.gov with the subject line "school-based vision screening" by **Friday July 22, 2016.**

~~WAC 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.]~~

~~WAC 246-760-100 What are the qualifications for visual screening personnel? Qualifications for the visual acuity screening personnel.~~

This informal feedback period is intended to inform the working draft of Chapter 246-760 WAC as it relates to school-based vision screening standards. Please provide any feedback to the State Board of Health by emailing wsboh@sboh.wa.gov with the subject line "school-based vision screening" by **Friday July 22, 2016**.

(1) Screening must be performed in a manner consistent with this chapter and RCW 28A.210.020~~by persons~~. Technicians and lay volunteers conducting vision screening must be competent to administer screening procedures as a function of their professional training and background or special training and demonstrated competence under supervisionby the school nurse, the school principal or his or her designee.

(2) ~~Technicians and nonprofessional lay volunteers must have adequate preparation and thorough understanding of the tests as demonstrated by their performance under supervision~~ shall demonstrate their competence at administering the testing tools including controlling for lighting or distractions that could affect the test results.

(3) Persons performing visual screening may include, but are not limited to, school nurses and/or principals or other school personnel who have complete training in vision testing, and licensed vision care professionals who donate their professional services to schools or school districts. If a vision professional who donates his or her services identifies a visual problem that may impact a student's learn-

This informal feedback period is intended to inform the working draft of Chapter 246-760 WAC as it relates to school-based vision screening standards. Please provide any feedback to the State Board of Health by emailing wsboh@sboh.wa.gov with the subject line "school-based vision screening" by **Friday July 22, 2016**.

ing, the vision professional shall notify the school nurse and/or the school principal in writing but may not contact the student's parents or guardians directly per RCW 28A.210.020.

~~(3)~~ (4) Supervision, training, reporting and referral of visual acuity screening shall must be the responsibility of a professional person specifically designated by the school administration the school nurse, the school principal or his or her designee. He or sheThe principal's designee 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 has demonstrated their competence in vision testing through supervised training by a competent school or public health nurse or licensed vision care professional, supervisory ability and experience, and the ability to work well with school staff and testing volunteers. Ideally the person should have demonstrated the ability to teach vision testing techniques and operations to others.

This informal feedback period is intended to inform the working draft of Chapter 246-760 WAC as it relates to school-based vision screening standards. Please provide any feedback to the State Board of Health by emailing wsboh@sboh.wa.gov with the subject line "school-based vision screening" by **Friday July 22, 2016.**

[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.]

DRAFT