



Rule Proposal for Chapter 246–760 WAC Auditory and Visual Standards – School Districts

Washington State Board of Health
August 10, 2016

Sierra Rotakhina, Board Policy Advisor

In partnership with Department of Health:
Ellen Silverman, Ellie McMillan, Cori Tarzwell

School-based Vision Screening Rules

Chapter 246-760 WAC

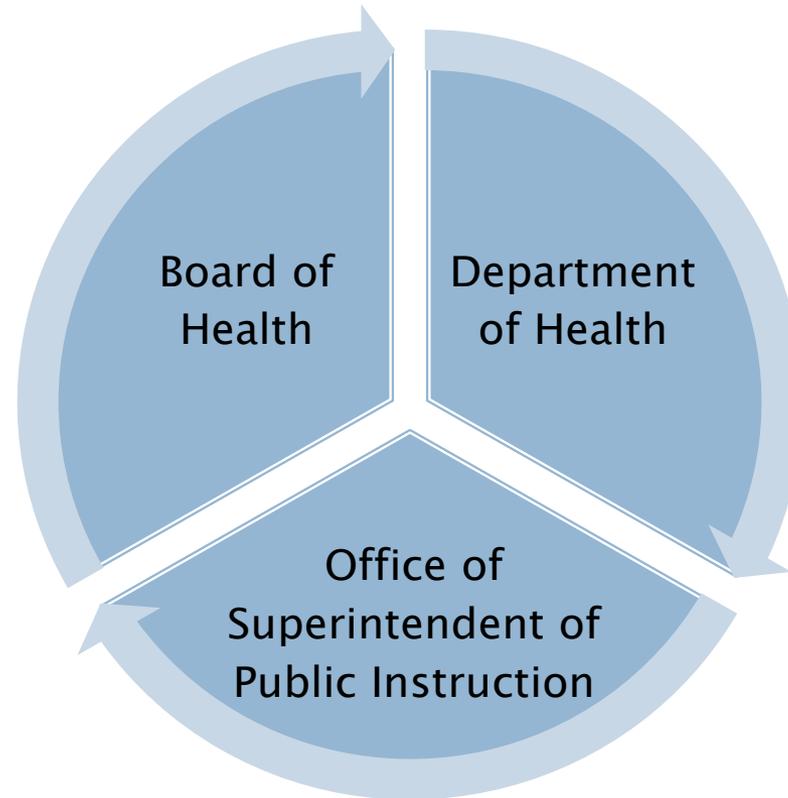
- Review of rule & rule writing
- Reasons to update the rule
- Proposed rule change
- Next steps
- Summary of stakeholder feedback



School-based Vision Screening Rules

Chapter 246-760 WAC

Review of rule & rule writing



School-based Vision Screening Rules

Chapter 246-760 WAC

Review of rule & rule writing

- Only SNELLEN was allowed as a distance screening tool
- Consulted the literature on vision screening tools
- Met with content expert workgroup
- Worked with OSPI Nurse Corps
- Developed draft
- Reviewed with Key Staff
- Legislature mandated near vision testing (SB 6245)
- Modified draft to include near vision testing
- Sent preliminary draft out for feedback



School-based Vision Screening Rules

Chapter 246-760 WAC

Reasons to update the screening rule

- Align with current practice standards for far vision testing
- Adopt nationally recognized standards for vision screening language
- Allow school nurses to make referrals without rescreening when a school nurse performed the initial screening
- Add near vision screening as required by SB 6245
- Fix other “housekeeping” issues

School-based Vision Screening Rules

Chapter 246-760 WAC

Proposed Rule Change

- Expands the list of screening instruments that may be used for far vision testing to include nationally recognized standards and tools without the need to seek Board approval
- Streamlines referral process for students screened by a school nurse
- Provides guidance on screening instruments and referral procedures
- Clarifies that schools may screen in additional grades or for additional vision problems if resources are available



School-based Vision Screening Tools

Proposed Rule Change

Distance Vision

Current Rule

Snellen only; other tools as approved by the Board

Proposed Rule

Best practice, age appropriate tools

School-based Vision Screening Tools

Proposed Rule Change

Required Distance Vision Screening

Kindergarten and grade one:

- LEA vision test,
- Single LEA Symbol (at 5 feet), or
- HOTV letter

Grades two and above:

- LEA vision test;
- LEA Symbols or Numbers;
- HOTV Letters; or
- Sloan Letters

School-based Vision Screening Tools

Proposed Rule Change

Required Near Vision Acuity Screening

Kindergarten:

- HOTV,
- LEA vision test,
- LEA Symbols Near Vision,
- or Sloan Letters

Grade one and above:

- HOTV,
- LEA vision test,
- LEA Symbols Near Vision,
- or Sloan Letters.

School-based Vision Screening

Next Steps

- Address and integrate stakeholder feedback as appropriate
- Finalize DRAFT Rule (CR 102)
- Hold Hearing (October Board meeting)
- Finalize Rule (CR 103)
- OSPI will implement the rule (proposed implementation July 2017):
 - develop guidelines for statewide adoption
 - partner with funders (Lions)
 - provide training