

From: [Sandra Johnson](#)
To: [DOH WSBOH](#)
Subject: School based vision screening...
Date: Sunday, October 30, 2016 8:09:41 PM
Attachments: [Bill Text - SB-1172 Pupil health- vision appraisals..pdf](#)

RE: Chapter 246-760 WAC as it relates to school-based vision screening standards

To whom it may concern:

I wanted to lend support to the current revisions as noted in Draft – Pre-CR 102 for stakeholder notification. I am a certificated school nurse currently employed by Tacoma Public Schools. I just recently moved here from the state of California where I hold a School Nurse Services Credential. Your updates using Sloan letters, LEA symbols, and HOTV letters at the indicated ages align with the school nursing community’s understanding of best practice.

I would add consideration for and the addition of guidelines for the use of industry approved photo-screening devices. I suggest that a district be permitted to house a photo-screening device (approximate cost of one device would be \$800-\$1000) and train personnel in its use, so that nonverbal or very young students may receive the same vision deficit identification standards as their peers. Without this type of device, it is otherwise impossible to assess their needs. These vulnerable members of the scholastic population have been underserved in this area, and since there is now a way to address their needs, we have an ethical obligation to do so.

I further recommend the inclusion of color screening, as the deficiency is common in males and can significantly effect a student’s perception of their environment. Strides to assist them to compensate cannot be made without identification of the problem. The test is done with Ishiharra color plates, which can be obtained at a nominal cost and the test takes only a moment to do once in a male child’s life. This has been done traditionally in 1st or 2nd grade in California schools.

I am attaching the verbiage from Senate Bill No. 1172 from California for reference regarding my convictions. They recently revised this section of their education code to be amenable with the use of photo screening devices. Please explore this information and consider implementation of the practices of screening non-verbal and young children and males for color blindness.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sandra Johnson, RN, PHN, California School Nurse Services Credential
Washington Certificated School Nurse

