

# Executive Summary: Health Impact Review of HB 1865

## Concerning Visual Screening in Schools

Evidence indicates that HB 1865 has potential to increase the number of students who have near-vision problems detected and treated, which in turn has potential to improve educational, income, and health outcomes for these students. Although evidence suggests that this bill could decrease disparities in undiagnosed near vision problems by race/ethnicity and income, it is unclear how the bill would impact treatment and long-term outcomes across student subpopulations.

### BILL INFORMATION

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**Sponsors:** Representatives Magendanz, Ortiz-Self, McCaslin, Hayes, Pollet

**Summary of Bill:** Requires every board of school directors to provide for screening for near vision acuity in addition to screening already required for distance vision acuity.

### HEALTH IMPACT REVIEW

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#### Summary of Findings:

This Health Impact Review found the following evidence regarding the provisions in HB 1865:

- Strong evidence that school-based near vision screening would likely increase detection, diagnosis, and treatment of near vision problems in at least some students.
- Very strong evidence that detecting and treating near vision problems would lead to improved academic outcomes for these students.
- Very strong evidence that improving academic outcomes would likely increase educational attainment for these students.
- Very strong evidence that increasing educational attainment would likely improve health outcomes for these students.
- Very strong evidence that increasing educational attainment would likely increase earning potential for these students.
- Very strong evidence that increasing earning potential would likely improve health outcomes for these students.
- Unclear evidence for the bill's impact on health disparities. Evidence suggests that this bill could decrease disparities in undiagnosed near vision problems by race/ethnicity and income, however it is unclear how the bill would impact treatment and long-term outcomes across student subpopulations. See the full Health Impact Review for a detailed analysis of the potential impacts of HB 1865 on health disparities.

### FULL REVIEW

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For review methods, logic model, strength-of-evidence analyses, and citations of empirical evidence refer to the full Health Impact Review:

<http://sboh.wa.gov/Portals/7/Doc/HealthImpactReviews/HIR-2016-02-HB1865.pdf>

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