

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Date: January 8, 2025

To: Washington State Board of Health Members

From: Kelly Oshiro, Board Member

Subject: Update, Chapter 246-650 WAC, Auditory Screening Standards

Background and Summary:

Under state law (RCW 28A.210.020), the Washington State Board of Health (Board) sets the rules for yearly hearing screenings in schools. These rules are in chapter 246-760 WAC. The rules help ensure schools can identify students with difficulty hearing and refer them for follow-up care.

In August 2023, the Lake Chelan Lion's Club requested that the Board update its hearing screening rules. They suggested adding another screening technology called otoacoustic emission screening (OAE). The Board accepted the request and filed a CR-101, Preproposal Statement of Inquiry, in October 2023 to consider this update and other minor changes.

Since then, Board staff have worked with hearing screening experts, identified possible changes to the rules, and engaged interested parties and affected communities through school site visits, information and listening sessions, and a survey for school screening staff. Staff are now using feedback from these efforts to update draft rules before circulating them for informal comments.

I have invited Molly Dinardo, Board Policy Advisor, to provide a brief overview and update on this work. The Board will not take action on this matter today.

Staff

Molly Dinardo, Policy Advisor

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