

# WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

**Date:** June 4, 2025

**To:** Washington State Board of Health Members

**From:** Kelly Oshiro, Board Member

**Subject:** Rules Hearing, Chapter 246-650 WAC, Auditory Screening Standards – School Districts

## 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 ensure schools can identify and refer students with diminished hearing 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.

Board staff worked with hearing experts, reviewed potential rule changes, and gathered feedback from interested parties and affected communities through school site visits, informational sessions, and a survey for school screening staff. Board staff used this feedback to draft proposed rules for informal comment and supporting analyses.

A CR-102, Proposed Rule, was filed on April 22, 2025, opening the formal public comment period, which ended on May 23, 2025. The proposed updates to chapter 246-760 WAC would allow schools to use otoacoustic emission (OAE) devices as an optional tool for students who can't be screened with the current technology. In addition, these changes aim to clarify the rule's language, align it with vision screening standards, and reflect current national hearing screening guidelines.

I have invited Molly Dinardo, Board staff, to summarize the proposed rules, share comments received during the public comment period, and provide staff recommendations on addressing those comments. Following this presentation, we will hold a public hearing on the proposed rules.

## Recommended Board Actions:

The Board may wish to consider and amend, if necessary, the following motion:

The Board adopts the proposed rules establishing chapter 246-760 WAC as published in WSR 25-09-146, with revisions agreed upon at today's meeting, if any. The Board directs staff to file a CR-103 and establish an effective date.

**Staff**

Molly Dinardo

To request this document in an alternate format or a different language, please contact the Washington State Board of Health at 360-236-4110 or by email at [wsboh@sboh.wa.gov](mailto:wsboh@sboh.wa.gov). TTY users can dial 711.

PO Box 47990 • Olympia, WA 98504-7990  
360-236-4110 • [wsboh@sboh.wa.gov](mailto:wsboh@sboh.wa.gov) • [sboh.wa.gov](http://sboh.wa.gov)