

## Vision screening changes!

Welcome to a new school year, 2017-2018. A new law was passed regarding a near vision screening requirement for grades K-3, 5 & 7. This has been added to an existing law requiring distance screening in all Washington state schools pursuant to Senate Bill 6245, passed by the 2016 Legislature. This legislation amended RCW 28A.210.020. The Washington State Board of Health (WSBOH) implemented the new law for 2017-2018 school year. WSBOH has the authority to adopt rules for visual screening in schools. OSPI (Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction) has provided recommendations to the WSBOH regarding the administration of visual screening. These recommendations included the devices and equipment necessary to accurately screen for near vision acuity.

Our district has decided to perform vision screening with an instrument-based screening device (such as a photo screening machine). If the device doesn't generate a result for students, screening will need to take place with an optotype chart outlined in WAC 246-760-071. All building nurses will have appropriate tools and parents will be informed if your student doesn't pass.

Vision Screening will therefore look differently this year. Vision screening will take place on September 27, 2017.

Please remember to send glasses to school that day if lenses were prescribed for near or distance acuity.

Thank You,

Linda Rathke, RN (Totem Falls & Riverview)