



Vision Screening in Henrico County Public Schools fact sheet

Vision screenings will be completed for kindergarten, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 10th and new to Henrico County students. Parent and teachers may also request a vision screening at any grade with written parent permission.

Vision screenings and follow up eye examinations are essential for detecting visual impairment. Conditions that lead to visual abnormalities may lead to permanent loss of vision in the affected eye, loss of depth perception, decreased integration of visual and motor skills, potential decrease in learning ability, and problems in school adjustment.

Difference between vision screenings and eye examinations

Vision screenings- a vision screening is not a diagnostic process and does not replace a comprehensive examination by an eye doctor. The purpose of vision screening is to identify the number of individuals in need of care who receive comprehensive eye exams and necessary treatment. **Eye exams-** an eye exam diagnoses eye disorders and diseases and prescribes treatment. A comprehensive eye examination includes a thorough assessment of the eye and vision. <https://preventblindness.org/vision-screenings-and-eye-exams/>

Why is it important to act when referred for an eye examination by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist after a school screening? These comprehensive examinations may identify problems beyond the results or scope of the vision screening. When you take your child for an eye examination, the eye doctor checks your child's vision and eye health. If your child's eye doctor finds a vision problem and recommends treatment, such as corrective eyeglasses, it is important to get the eyeglasses, for your child to wear the eyeglasses, and to attend follow-up visits to change the eyeglasses prescription, if needed.

Another important reason for following up with a licensed vision professional is that some vision conditions occur only during childhood, can lead to permanent vision loss if not treated early, and can best be treated when found early. For more information on common early childhood vision disorders, visit: [Common Children's Vision Problems on the Prevent Blindness website](#) or see [Common Vision Terms Defined](#).

Why is vision so important for school? Another reason taking your child to an eye doctor matters is because undetected, undiagnosed, and uncorrected vision problems have been associated with poor school performance, such as problems with learning to read or disruptive behaviors in the classroom. <https://nationalcenter.preventblindness.org/importance-of-eye-exam-after-vision-screening-referral/>

****The school nurse will send home a referral letter for those students who fail or are recommended for follow up.**