



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

ELIZABETH HERTEL
DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 29, 2021

To: Health Officers
Local Health Departments

From: Carrie Tarry, Director *Carrie Tarry*
Division of Child and Adolescent Health

Subject: Hearing and Vision Screenings for Kindergarten Entry

Due to the continued challenges with COVID-19, there has been limited opportunity to provide the required screenings for hearing and vision for incoming kindergarten children. Public Act No. 368 of 1978, Section 9307 states that “a child registered for the first time in kindergarten in this state shall present to school officials, at the time of registration or not later than the first day of school, a certificate of hearing and vision testing or screening”. The provision of screenings in 2021 at kindergarten round-ups, Local Health Department office appointments, and summer screenings has been reduced because of the pandemic.

Although parents, schools, and Local Health Departments will not be held accountable for lack of compliance with Section 9307, it is expected that Local Health Departments will make every attempt to provide screenings to as many entering kindergarteners prior to the start of school. If this is not possible, screenings should take place during the kindergarten school year for both hearing and vision. If parents have concerns about their child’s hearing or vision, they should consult with their primary care provider or eye care professional immediately rather than wait for the screening.

Children who were unable to be screened prior to the start of school should not be excluded from attending.

If you have questions regarding this information, please contact Jennifer Dakers, at DakersJ@michigan.gov or Rachel Schumann at SchumannR@michigan.gov