

Nebraska School Health Screening

Frequently Asked Questions for Parents/Guardians



Why do public schools in Nebraska conduct school health screenings?

It's required by Nebraska law. Healthy students are better learners. Schools in Nebraska have been providing free health screening for students for over 100 years to ensure that students do not have a condition that could impair their ability to learn.

What grade levels receive school health screenings?

Students in pre-K, Kindergarten, and 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 7th, and 10th grades. Plus, students with hearing or vision concerns can be screened at any time.

What health conditions will be screened for?

Students in Nebraska schools must be screened for vision, hearing, and dental health. In addition, height and weight measurements must be taken. The purpose of screening is to identify those students needing further evaluation or assistance for their health, not to make a diagnosis.

Are screenings still required for the 2020-2021 school year?

There have been no changes in screening requirements for 2020-2021. Schools are taking great care to conduct these screenings safely. Your child should wear a mask if possible when school health screenings are being conducted.

Are remote learners still required to be screened?

Remote learners are enrolled students and fall under screening requirements. These students have the same needs to hear and see in order to learn. Schools may offer special times when remote learners can come in for screening. Parents may also have their child screened by a Physician, Physician Assistant, or APRN - NP if they prefer, and share information with the school.

What happens if my child's screening results are not within normal limits?

If screening results indicate a need for further evaluation, the school notifies the parent/guardian in writing. Schools do not cover the cost of further evaluation.

Who can perform school health screenings?

School health screenings are conducted either by healthcare professionals, such as School Nurses, or by those who are trained by licensed healthcare professionals.

Can a healthcare provider do the health screenings instead?

Yes. Your child does not need to be screened at school if you bring a signed statement from a physician, PA, or APRN stating that they have had these screenings done in the past 6 months.

What if my child has recently had a physical or visual evaluation? Do they still need screening?

If you provide your school with documentation from your child's current physical examination, visual evaluation, or dental examination, they can use that information instead of doing a screening (if results are equivalent). Please call your child's school if you are not sure.

My child has special needs. Will my child still receive school health screenings?

If your child has known hearing or vision deficits, they may not need periodic screenings for these conditions. This will be determined on an individual basis by the child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and/or school personnel following the student.

Students with special healthcare needs who cannot be screened by usual methods at school should not be excluded or overlooked by the school health screening program.

Can I object to my child's school health screenings?

Height and weight screenings may be excused if the parent or guardian provides a signed statement of refusal. A new statement, signed and dated, must be provided for each year that height/weight is to be refused.

To refuse vision, dental, or hearing screening, parents/guardian must submit written statement(s) from a qualified examiner that the child has had screenings done within the past six months.

Will my child's school health screening be kept confidential?

Yes. School health screening information is protected by privacy laws. Screenings will be conducted in a confidential way and results will be kept in student's personal health record.

When are students required to be screened?

The screenings may take place at any time during the school year.

Where can I read more about school health screening?

Regulations are found here: [https://www.nebraska.gov/rules-and-regs/regsearch/Rules/Health and Human Services System/Title-173/Chapter-07.pdf](https://www.nebraska.gov/rules-and-regs/regsearch/Rules/Health_and_Human_Services_System/Title-173/Chapter-07.pdf)