TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
VISION AND HEARING SCREENING REQUIREMENTS

The Special Senses and Communications Disorders Act, Texas Health and Safety Code requires that all children enrolled for the first time in any public, private, parochial, or denominational school or in a Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services licensed day-care center and group day-care home in Texas, or who meet certain grade criteria (specified below), must be screened or have a professional examination for possible vision and hearing problems.

The requirements for VISION AND HEARING SCREENING apply each year for children enrolled in any licensed day-care center, group day-care home or school program at the ages or grades listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHO MUST BE SCREENED</th>
<th>WHEN SCREENING MUST BE DONE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4-year olds</td>
<td>Within 120 days of admission or - or - Before end of first semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kindergarteners</td>
<td>Anytime within the school year (preferably within first semester)</td>
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<td>Any other first-time entrants (4 years* through 12th grade)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st-, 3rd-, 5th-, 7th-, and 9th graders</td>
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*Although not required by Chapter 36, Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services licensed day-care centers and group day-care homes are encouraged to screen all children younger than 4 years of age who can reliably respond to the screening tests outlined in the Texas Department of Health’s vision and hearing screening protocols.

To collect screening information for each child, a facility may use its own screening form or duplicate one provided by the Texas Department of Health upon request (M-40 and M-60). In either case, there must be a screening record on file for each child enrolled. The following data must be recorded: CHILD’S NAME, TYPE OF SCREENING, DATE, SCREENER, AND SCREENING RESULTS.

Annual reports for vision and hearing screening activities should be submitted to the Texas Department of Health on proper forms, M-52 (hearing screening) and M-62 (vision screening), by June 30th of each year. These forms are mailed to schools, day-care centers and group day-care homes annually.

SCREENING PROCEDURES

For VISION SCREENING, a distance acuity for the right and left eyes must be recorded, e.g., 20/20, 20/30, etc. Approved charts for distance acuity testing include: (1) Snellen Letter Chart, (2) Snellen “Tumbling E” Chart, and (3) HOTV Matching-
Symbol Test. (Muscle balance tests – Hirschberg corneal light reflex and cover-uncover tests – will be included in the certification workshops and are optional tests.)

For **HEARING SCREENING**, the results of the pure-tone audiometric Sweep-Check Screen must be recorded for both the right and left ears. A Sweep Check Screen is to be conducted at an intensity of 25 dB (or less) at the following frequencies: 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hertz.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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