



## MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 26, 2009

TO: South Carolina School Nurses

FROM: Cathy Young-Jones, RN, MSN  
School Health Nurse Consultant

SUBJECT: **SCREENING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR**

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Students entering Head Start, Early Childhood Development (Pre-K), kindergarten, or first grade programs should have a comprehensive health assessment performed by the student's health care practitioner, a comprehensive eye examination by an eye doctor, and a comprehensive dental examination by the student's dentist within the 12 months prior to enrollment in school for the first time.

The following school-based screening intervals are recommended:

### **Vision:**

- 1) All students in Early Childhood Development\* or Head Start\* programs preferably within 2 months of enrollment unless the program guidelines specify otherwise
- 2) All students in grades K\*, 1\*, 3\*, 5\*, 7\*, 9\* and 11
- 3) All new registrants unless health record accompanying student includes evidence of student having passed a previous vision screening
- 4) Additional populations to be screened:
  - a) Students who are repeating a grade
  - b) Students who are referred for or placed in special education programs\*
  - c) Students who were absent during a previously scheduled vision screening
  - d) Students referred for vision screening by a teacher or parent\*
  - e) Students previously referred, but have had no professional follow-up\*

### **Hearing:**

- 1) All students in Early Childhood Development\* or Head Start\* programs preferably within 2 months of enrollment unless the program guidelines specify otherwise
- 2) All students in grades K\*, 1\*, 2, 3, 7 and 11
- 3) All new registrants unless health record accompanying student includes evidence of student having passed a previous hearing screening
- 4) Additional populations to be screened:
  - a) Students who are repeating a grade
  - b) Students who are referred for or placed in special education programs\*
  - c) Students who were absent during a previously scheduled hearing screening
  - d) Students referred for hearing screening by a teacher or parent\*
  - e) Students known to have a history of frequent ear infections
  - f) Students with a history of exposure to excessive noise levels (e.g., students enrolled in classes with high noise levels should be screened annually while enrolled in such classes)
  - g) Students who display chronic patterns of "not paying attention" or "defiance"\*
  - h) Students previously referred, but have had no professional follow-up\*

### **Dental:**

- 1) All students in Early Childhood Development\* or Head Start\* programs preferably within 2 months of enrollment unless the program guidelines specify otherwise
- 2) All students in grades K\*, 1, 3\*, 5, 7\* and 10\*

- 3) All new registrants unless health record accompanying student includes evidence of student having passed a previous dental screening
- 4) Additional populations to be screened:
  - a) Students who were absent during a previously scheduled dental screening
  - b) Students referred for dental screening by a teacher or parent\*
  - c) Students previously referred, but have had no professional follow-up\*

**Scoliosis:**

- 1) All students in grades 6
- 2) Additional populations to be screened:
  - a) Students who were absent during a previously scheduled scoliosis screening
  - b) Students referred for scoliosis screening by a teacher or parent\*
  - c) Students previously referred, but have had no professional follow-up\*

**Blood Pressure:**

- 1) All students in grades 8 and 11\*
- 2) Additional populations to be screened:
  - a) Students who are absent during a previously scheduled blood pressure screening
  - b) Students referred for a blood pressure screening by a teacher or parent\*
  - c) Students previously referred, but have had no professional follow-up\*

**BMI:**

- 1) All students in grades 3, 5\*<sup>#</sup>, 8\*<sup>#</sup>, and at least once in grades 9 –12\*<sup>#</sup>
- 2) Additional populations to be screened:
  - a) Students who were absent during a previously scheduled weight screening
  - b) Students referred for a weight status screening by a teacher or parent\*
  - c) Students previously referred, but have had no professional follow-up\*

\* Indicates priority if unable to screen all of the state recommended grade levels or priority screening for special populations.

<sup>#</sup> This grade corresponds with SC Code of Laws Section 59-10-10. Body composition measures are reported by physical education teachers to a student's parent/guardian as part of the individual student's overall fitness status. BMI is the most commonly used index of overweight and obesity in childhood and adolescence. School nurses should not duplicate the efforts of the physical education teachers, but may work with physical education teachers to provide resources that students may need.