Ohio Student Eye Exam (OhioSEE) Program

WHY FOLLOW-UP EYE CARE MATTERS AFTER A FAILED VISION SCREENING

Your Child's Vision Is Crucial for Their Learning and Development

Every year, thousands of Ohio children receive school vision screenings to help detect early signs of possible eye conditions. These screenings are essential, but screening is only the first step. If your child does not pass their vision screening, it is important to schedule an appointment to see an eye care professional for a full exam.

Without an eye exam, treatable conditions like nearsightedness or strabismus can lead to amblyopia, also called "lazy eye," which may cause permanent vision loss if left uncorrected. The earlier these issues are treated, the better.

What the Numbers Say

Unfortunately, many children in Ohio still lack access to necessary follow-up care. Here's a comparison of how many children were referred to additional care in the 2023 school year versus how many received it:

Grade Level	Referred	Completed Referrals	% Not Completed
Preschool	8,123	1,703	79%
Kindergarten - 3rd Grade	47,391	12,755	76%
4th - 8th Grade	29,369	5,599	81%
9th – 12th Grade	21,044	3,423	84%

Statewide Referral Completion Rate: Only one in four kindergarten through 3rd grade students get follow-up eye care.

This means thousands of Ohio children are at risk of falling behind in school, or even losing vision, from preventable conditions.

How to Get Follow-Up Vision Care for Your Child

Follow-up care after a failed vision screening should be easy and accessible. Here's how you can help your child:

Know what to expect.

You will receive a referral form if your child fails a vision screening. This means they need a full eye exam. The Journey Through an Eye Exam video can help you learn what to expect during an eye exam.

Check your insurance.

Most Medicaid plans cover vision care. Use these tools to find an in-network provider:

- **VSP:** Find an Eye Doctor.
- **EyeMed:** Provider Locator.
- **CareSource:** Superior Vision Search.
- **Molina/UHC:** March Vision Care.
- **AmeriHealth Caritas:** Search Directory.
- **Anthem:** Vision Locator.

Use one of the following resources to find an eye doctor near you:

- Find a Pediatric Vision Provider – ODH.
- Find an Optometrist (AOA).
- WebMD Physician Directory to find an Ophthalmologist.

For further assistance finding a provider, email Molly.Nelson@odh.ohio.gov.

A school vision screening can identify potential risk for a vision problem. But only you can ensure your child gets the care they need to succeed. Let's work together to ensure that every child sees clearly and has the chance to learn, grow, and thrive.