

Hearing & Vision Screening Guidance for the 2024-2025 School Year

The updated Hearing Screening and Vision Screening Rules have been approved and will be in place for the 2024-2025 school year.

The screening rules are a minimum standard expectation. While the students in specific grades and special circumstances (new students, specific referrals, etc) listed in the rules need to be screened in alignment with the criteria outlined in the rules, schools and districts have the authority to establish internal policies to screen beyond the state requirements.

As programs determine if and how they will screen additional students that are outside the requirements in the rules, the Sensory Screening Program strongly suggests doing so in alignment with best practice recommendations from national pediatric health organizations.

Vision Screening

Students Included in Vision Screening Population	
All grades	<p>Every enrolled student, within 90 school days after initial enrollment to school if the school does not have documentation of a previous vision screening within the last 12 months.</p> <p>Additional screening applicable to every student if one of the following applies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The student receives or is being considered for special education services pursuant to A.R.S. Title 15, Chapter 7, Article 4, and A.A.C. Title 7, Chapter 2, Article 4, and who has not been screened in the last year; 2. A teacher has requested a screening for the student, and the student has not been screened in the previous year; or 3. The student is not reading at the proficient level by the third grade pursuant to the state assessment required in ARS 15-741.
Preschool	Every enrolled student, if initial entry
Kindergarten	Every enrolled student, if initial entry
Grade 3	Every enrolled student.
Grade 7	Every enrolled student.
Students Not Included in Vision Screening Population	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A student whose parent objects to the student receiving a vision screening, as specified in A.R.S. § 36-899.10; 2. A student who has been diagnosed as being legally blind or having vision impairment; 3. A student enrolled in a private education program, as specified in A.R.S. § 36-899(5); 4. A student who is an “emancipated person” defined in A.R.S. § 12-2451 and objects to receiving a vision screening; or 5. A student enrolled in a child care facility regulated pursuant to A.R.S. Title 36, Chapter 7.1. 	



Screening Type	Distance and Near Visual Acuity	Stereoacuity	Color Vision Deficiency
Grade Level	Initial Entry to Preschool or Kindergarten (if able to participate)	Initial Entry to Preschool or Kindergarten (if able to participate)	Initial Entry to Preschool or Kindergarten
	Grade 3	Grade 3	
	Grade 7		
	A student who is not reading at a proficient level by the third grade or who meets the criteria in Table 13.2 (A)(5)		
Passing Criteria	<p>Able to identify the majority of the optotypes at the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20/50 line if 3 years old, • 20/40 line if 4 years old, • 20/32 line if 5 years or older. 	According to the manufacturer's criteria	

Autorefractor/Photoscreener Vision Screening

- Autorefractors/photoscreeners may be used to screen the following populations:
 - Students who are between the ages of one year but less than six years of age who cannot participate in optotype visual acuity screening.
 - Students who are six years of age and older who cannot participate in optotype visual acuity screenings, for example, children with special healthcare needs and children with developmental delays or disabilities.
- Autorefractors/photoscreeners do not measure visual acuity but identify the presence of risk factors that could lead to problems with visual acuity. Therefore, Autorefractors/photoscreeners should not be used in lieu of near or distance optotype visual acuity screening for students that are able to participate.
- A student has passed an instrument-based vision screening if the display screen of the device indicates the results as passed.



Equipment

The ADHS Sensory Screening Program does not require a specific manufacturer for vision screening equipment, rather we rely on recommendations by national associations for children's vision and overall health to recommend the most appropriate vision screening types among children and adolescents.

Distance and Near Visual Acuity

- HOTV Letters
- LEA Symbols
- Sloan Letters (Start using once child is 6 years of age or can name letters)

Stereoacuity

- Random Dot "E"
- Butterfly Test

Color Deficiency (only conducted once)

- Pseudoisochromatic plates

Autorefractors/Photoscreeners

- Welch Allyn® Spot™ Vision Screener
- Plusoptix S12C Vision Screener
- Retinomax (Right Mfg. Co Ltd.- Tokyo, Japan)
- SureSight Vision Screener (SureSight) (Welch-Allyn, Inc.- Skaneateles Falls, NY) (Software version 2.25)

Computer based screening options - These programs may offer a variety of screening types. Please ensure you still follow ADHS guidelines for the required screening types for specific student groups.

- EyeSpy 20/20
- Go Check Kids

Vision Screener Training:

The Sensory Screening Program will roll out vision screening training Summer 2024!

Training will be provided in a hybrid format. Participants will log on to the training site and access the complete course which can be watched asynchronously at their own pace. An in person equipment competency is the final component of the training and will be scheduled on a case by case basis.

There will be no cost to participants for training.



Hearing Screening

Students Included in the Hearing Screening Population	
All grades	<p>Every student, within 90 school days after initial enrollment to school if the school does not have documentation of a previous hearing screening within the last 12 months.</p> <p>Additional screening is applicable to every student if one of the following applies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The student receives or is being considered for special education services pursuant to A.R.S. Title 15, Chapter 7, Article 4, and A.A.C. Title 7, Chapter 2, Article 4,2. A teacher has requested a screening for the student;3. The student did not pass a hearing rescreening during the previous school year; or4. The student is repeating a grade.
Preschool	Every enrolled student
Kindergarten	Every enrolled student
Grade 1	Every enrolled student
Grade 3	Every enrolled student
Grade 5	Every enrolled student
Grade 7	Every enrolled student
Grade 9	Every enrolled student
Grades 10, 11, and 12	Every enrolled student for whom the school does not have documentation that the student received and passed a hearing screening in or after grade 9.
Students Not Included in the Hearing Screening Population	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A student whose parent has objected to the student receiving a hearing screening, as specified in A.R.S. § 36-899.04.2. A student who has been diagnosed as being deaf or hard of hearing.3. A student who is at least 16 years of age and has requested not to receive a hearing screening according to A.R.S. § 36-899.01.4. A student enrolled in a child care facility regulated pursuant to A.R.S. Title 36, Chapter 7.1.	



Screening Type	Pure Tone Audiometry	Pure Tone Audiometry & Tympanometry	Otoacoustic Emissions
Grade Level	All students who are cognitively and behaviorally able to participate.	Tympanometry may be added to pure tone screenings at the discretion of the screening program.	Initial Entry to preschool or kindergarten
			Students who are cognitively or behaviorally limited in their ability to participate in pure tone screenings
Passing Criteria	<i>Screen each student's ears, with the response recorded at the following criteria:</i>		
	1000 Hz at 20 dB HL, 2000 Hz at 20 dB HL, and 4000 Hz at 20 dB HL;	The height of the peak acoustic immittance is > 0.3 mmho, mL, or compliance; or The tympanometric width or gradient is < 250 daPa; and	The display screen of the otoacoustic emissions device indicates results that the student has passed
		1000 Hz at 20 dB HL, 2000 Hz at 20 dB HL, and 4000 Hz at 20 dB HL;	

Otoacoustic Emissions Screening
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Otoacoustic Emissions devices may be used to screen the following populations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Students who are between the ages of one year but less than six years of age who cannot participate in pure tone hearing screening. b. Students who are six years of age and older who cannot participate in pure tone hearing screenings, for example children with special healthcare needs and children with developmental delays or disabilities. 2. Otoacoustic emissions screenings do not measure the child's ability to detect or respond to sound but measure the response of inner ear structures to auditory stimulation. Therefore, otoacoustic emissions screening should not be used in lieu of pure tone audiometry screening for those students that are able to participate.



Hearing Screener Training:

Training will continue to be provided in a hybrid format. Participants will log on to the training site and access the complete course which can be watched asynchronously at their own pace. An in person equipment competency is the final component of the training and will be scheduled on a case by case basis.

There will be no cost to participants for training.

Equipment

The ADHS Sensory Screening Program does not require a specific manufacturer for hearing screening equipment

Hearing screening equipment should be calibrated annually and maintained in good working condition.

The Sensory Screening Program will provide continuous updates throughout the year based on programmatic updates, local trends, and statewide data. All questions and inquiries should be emailed to sensoryprogram@azdhs.gov.