

Vision screening follow-up

Increasing follow-up for students with untreated vision concern.



Utah children with significant vision issues such as amblyopia often don't receive timely care after a failed vision screen. Early detection and treatment is the purpose of school vision screenings. Schools and school districts should have a plan to quickly follow up with parents if a child fails the vision test. This can be individualized and may include some of the following ideas.

- **Send information and referrals to parents.** Information and materials that are brief and eye-catching work best. Materials should tell parents what a failed vision test means and the issues that can arise without proper treatment and intervention.
- **Develop a strategy to help families pay for follow-up screenings.** Assign a person at your school or district to gather information on financial help and distribute it to families.
- **Arrange for school-based eye clinics.** This is especially important for schools that have high numbers of students whose families have lower incomes or who don't have insurance.
- **Offer vision screenings to all pre-school aged children in your school boundaries or district.** Vision screenings for pre-school students are important so treatment can begin early when children have the best chance of healthy outcomes.
- **Develop protocols to follow up on referrals.** Reach out to families who received referrals for additional services to make sure they are able to get the care their child needs. Remember to keep privacy concerns in mind when doing so.
- **Encourage families who have insurance coverage to get their children a complete eye exam with an eye-care professional before starting kindergarten.** Many plans will cover the exam. Information on financial help for needed treatment could also be offered. This could be included in kindergarten registration information.