STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

ELIZABETH HERTEL
DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 7, 2026

To: School Secretaries, Principals, and Superintendents of all Michigan Public, Private, and Parochial Schools

From: Jennifer Dakers, M.A., CCC-A, Hearing Program Coordinator

Subject: **Hearing and Vision Screening for Kindergarten Entry**

The screening of children's hearing and vision prior to the start of kindergarten is required in Michigan. The following laws mandate the screening, confirmation of screening, and the reporting of vision screenings.

Public Health Code Act 368 of 1978, Section 9307 states that "a parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis applying to have a child registered for the first time in a kindergarten or first grade in a school in this state shall present to school officials, at the time of registration or not later than the first day of school, a certificate of hearing and vision testing or screening, or statements of exception under Section 9311".

The Revised School Code (Act 451 of 1976, section 380.1177) requires that parents of children entering kindergarten present a statement to school officials confirming that they have received the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Vision Screening OR a statement, signed by a licensed eye care practitioner (ophthalmologist or optometrist), or medical/osteopathic physician indicating that a child's eyes have been examined at least once after age three and before initial school entry may also be presented. School officials are required to enter vision screening data into the MCIR/SIRS system for all kindergarten new entrants by November 1 of each year.

Please note the following points regarding Kindergarten Hearing and Vision Screening in Michigan:

- Parents are responsible for getting their child's hearing and vision screened prior to the first day of kindergarten
- Free screenings are available through the Local Health Department by appointment or during locally hosted kindergarten round ups
- Schools assist by communicating the requirements to parents
- Collaboration between the schools and local health departments allows for hearing and vision technicians to participate in the scheduled kindergarten roundups, if available
- **Children should not be denied school entry if the hearing and vision screenings have not been completed.** Parents should be encouraged to have the screening completed at their local health department as soon as possible
- Hearing screening statements from the local health department, primary care provider, or pediatrician are acceptable
- Vision screening statements from the local health department, a licensed eye care practitioner (ophthalmologist or optometrist) or medical/osteopathic physician are acceptable
- If possible, screenings should take place no more than 6 months prior to the start of the child's kindergarten school year
- Developmental kindergarten enrollees (Young 5's, Pre-kindergarten, etc.) should receive both hearing and vision screening services.
- School officials enter the hearing and vision screenings onto the immunization data entry screen in tMCIR no later than November 1, indicating that screenings were completed prior to the first day of school
- A separate report to MDHHS is no longer required

- When scheduling the screening day, schools and screening sites should ensure the following:
    - A quiet room with tables and appropriate chairs for either preschool or school-age screening are available. Hearing screening requires a quiet environment
    - A room with adequate space, outlets, minimal auditory and visual distractions, etc.
    - Screening is prohibited from being conducted in bathrooms or rooms where other events are taking place
    - Observers (including parents) must not communicate with children during the screening to prevent leading responses which can result in false negatives
    - Failure to provide the above necessities may result in being asked to reschedule the screening date

If you, or your support personnel responsible for entering hearing and vision screening data, have questions regarding this requirement, please contact your local health department's Hearing and Vision Screening Program or you may contact the following MDHHS Program Coordinator:

Jennifer Dakers, M.A., CCC-A, Hearing Program,
dakersj@michigan.gov

On behalf of the children of Michigan, many thanks for helping ensure that all Michigan children have good hearing and vision as they begin their journey to success in learning and life.

MDHHS/Hearing and Vision Program
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