

# Keene Independent School District

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## Vision and Hearing Screening

As part of Health and Safety Code, Chapter 36, the Vision Screening Program requires that all children enrolled for the first time in any public, private, parochial, or denominational school or in a Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) licensed child care centers and licensed child care home in Texas, or who meet certain grade criteria, must be screened or have a professional examination for possible vision problems.

### What is Vision Screening?

Vision screening is **not** a complete eye examination. The goal of vision screening is to detect those children who may have a visual problem and who should be evaluated by an eye specialist (optometrist or ophthalmologist).

### How do we Screen for Vision?

Screening will be done by school nursing staff that have been certified through the Department of State Health Services (DSHS). For vision screening, a distance acuity for the right and left eyes must be recorded, e.g., 20/20, 20/30, etc. Approved charts for distance acuity testing include: (1) Sloan Letter Chart and (2) HOTV Matching-Symbol Test. Photoscreening may also be used for screening. A first initial screen will be done and if he/she fails then a secondary screen will follow within two weeks.

### Who gets Screened?

This screening is done for all new students entering KISD during the first 120 days of enrollment. Grades Pre-K, K, 1,3,5,7 will be screened each year. State reports will be filed at the end of each school year.

### What is Hearing Screening?

Hearing screening is a simple, **non diagnostic** procedure which tells whether a child **may or may not** have a hearing problem.

Screening will be done by school nursing staff that have been certified through The Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

### How do we Screen for Hearing?

For hearing screening, a device known as pure-tone audiometer is used. A "sweep-check screen" must be recorded for both the right and left ears. If the child hears all the frequencies presented on both ears he/she is said to have "passed". A secondary screen will occur if he/she does not pass the initial hearing screen.

### Who gets screened?

This screening is done for all new students entering KISD during the first 120 days of enrollment. Grades Pre-K, K, 1,3,5,7 will be screened each year. State reports will be filed at the end of each school year.

## Spinal Screening

State law requires that schools must screen students for potential spinal problems. Screening can detect scoliosis at an early stage, when the curve is mild and may go unnoticed. Most curves can be treated without surgery if detected before becoming too severe. Therefore, early detection is key to controlling spinal deformities. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Spinal Screening Program is authorized by the Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 37.

### How do we screen:

Screening will be done by the Nursing staff and faculty. The screening is simple. Screeners will look at your child's back while he or she stands and bends forward.

### Who gets Screened:

All children, who are attending a public or private school must be screened for abnormal spinal curvature in accordance with the following schedule:

- Girls will be screened two times, once at age 10 (or fall semester of grade 5) and again at age 12 (or fall semester of grade 7).
- Boys will be screened one time at age 13 or 14 (or fall semester of grade 8).

### Important Recommendations:

- Girls should wear a thin t-shirt or a sports bra or a two-piece swimsuit top underneath their shirt on exam day.
- If girls are wearing a sports bra or a two-piece swimsuit top underneath their shirt, it is recommended that they remove their shirt for the screening.
- **Boys and girls will be screened separately and one at a time.**

## Acanthosis Nigricans Screening

### WHAT IS ACANTHOSIS NIGRICANS?

Acanthosis nigricans is a disorder that causes light brown-black, velvety, rough or thickened areas on the surface of the skin. It is usually found around the neck, armpits, and over the knuckles. The purpose of this screening is to detect these markings in children. Acanthosis nigricans can be a primary marker that may signal high insulin levels, which can lead to insulin resistance and then diabetes.

### How do we screen:

Screening is performed by the Nursing staff. The screening is done by checking the neck area only. If found to be positive, further screening is done, which includes height, weight, blood pressure and BMI (body mass index).

### Who gets Screened?

This screening is done for all new students entering KISD during the first 120 days of enrollment. Grades Pre-K, K, 1,3,5,7 will be screened each year. State reports will be filed at the end of each school year.

## **Positive Screenings**

These screenings are not a medical exam. Your child still needs to see a doctor for checkups. All positive screenings will be checked twice within a two week period of time. The school will send you a letter of referral for further examination if your child does not pass any one of the screenings.

## **Exemptions**

A child may be exempt from vision, hearing, acanthosis nigricans and spinal screenings if the child's parent or legal guardian does the following:

- Submits a record to the school showing that the child's vision, hearing or spine has been screened during the grade year in question or during the previous year. (Performed by the child's medical facility)
- Submits an affidavit stating that the screening conflicts with their religious beliefs or practices.

Please contact the campus nurse as soon as possible if you do not want your child to be screened and have or need the required documentation for exemption. For more information about the screenings you can check the Texas Department of Health Services at : <https://dshs.texas.gov/spinal/default.shtm>

Sincerely,

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