

## **STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES AND REQUIREMENTS** ***(Screening and Referral Programs)***

The health screening programs of the Cole County R-I School District are designed to examine the populations at highest risk at a time when early intervention has the most benefit. The following guidelines govern the district's health screening program:

1. The district will examine past screenings and assess them for effectiveness in order to ensure future screening programs effectively meet the needs of the district. The district plan for assessing the district's screening needs is:

Comprehensive health screenings are conducted annually to assess and evaluate the health and developmental status of students. Screening consists of a routine and brief approach to evaluating a group of individuals presumed to be normal in order to identify those students with possible deficits that need to be addressed early in the school year. Results are communicated with parents, and follow-up on referrals for "at risk" students continues until the problem is resolved appropriately. Best practices recommendations are followed using the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) manual of School Health Guidelines. Resources for carrying out screening and referral include an RN at the elementary/middle school level and an RN at the high school level using standard screening equipment (puretone audiometer, lighthouse/snellen E/sloan letters vision charts, scoliometer).

2. Based on the district's assessment plan above, the district's screening plan is:

Screenings for distance visual acuity are conducted on grades 2, 5, 7, 9, 11. Hearing screenings are conducted on grades K, 1, 2, 3. Height and weight screenings are conducted on grades K, 1, 2, 3, 5. Spinal screenings are done on 6th grade girls and all 8th grade students. Pre-kindergarten students are screened for hearing, height, weight through the Parents as Teachers (PAT) department and/or Kindergarten screening procedures. All teacher requests and new students will be screened. The above listed screenings are done annually, and the populations targeted are determined according to the DHSS manual of School Health Guidelines. Screening for head lice will be conducted twice per year on the entire elementary and middle school population.

3. The nurse will produce a calendar reflecting the approximate dates for screenings, re-screenings and screening follow-up that is coordinated with the overall school calendar.
4. The nursing staff will assist the superintendent or designee in identifying individual personnel to be utilized in the screening process.

5. The district will use the following procedures to notify parents/guardians of pertinent information pertaining to screening:

**Student Handbooks** – All student handbooks will include a description of the types of screenings the district will conduct, the timing for those screenings, and the process for excusing the student from a screening.

Parents/guardians will be advised prior to health screenings that are invasive through a detailed letter sent home with each student describing the purpose and procedure of the screening. The letter will include a section for the parent to sign and return to the school indicating they want their child excluded from the screening if they so choose. Results of the screening will be communicated to the parent via phone call or letter sent home. An example of such a screening is the spinal screening to identify students at risk for scoliosis.

6. Follow-ups to screenings will include:

Following all screenings, a letter is sent home with the student including the results of the screening whether positive or negative. The procedure for referral is that any abnormal screening result will qualify for a rescreen approximately two weeks later. If the result is still abnormal, a letter of referral explaining the result and action that it requires will be mailed to the parents with a form to be returned to school. If no response has been noted in three months, another letter regarding the status of the referral will be mailed home. The nurse will determine the response to each individual case. Assistance options for completion of the referral will be made available to the parent upon request. All screening results and referral follow-up will be entered into the medical SIS file as well as the student's cumulative health record by the nurse.

Parents/Guardians who need to consult with district staff regarding the results of any screening should contact the school nurse.

7. Members of the nursing staff are responsible for monitoring the results of all screenings and notifying the special education department or other appropriate staff members if a student may need classroom adaptations, special education services or accommodations.

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***Note: The reader is encouraged to review policies and/or forms for related information in this administrative area.***

Implemented: 03/16/2006

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Cole County R-I School District, Russellville, Missouri