
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5958

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senator Oemig)

READ FIRST TIME 02/25/09.

1 AN ACT Relating to vision screening of school children; amending
2 RCW 28A.210.020; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that, among other
5 causes, students who, from one semester to the next, exhibit striking
6 behavior or discipline changes or a sudden drop in academic performance
7 may have vision impairments. It is the goal of the legislature that,
8 to the extent that funds are available, such children be given
9 additional vision screening.

10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.210.020 and 1971 c 32 s 2 are each amended to read
11 as follows:

12 Every board of school directors shall have the power, and it shall
13 be its duty to provide for and require screening for the visual and
14 auditory acuity of all children attending schools in their districts to
15 ascertain which if any of such children have defects sufficient to
16 retard them in their studies. Auditory and visual screening shall be
17 made in accordance with procedures and standards adopted by rule (~~or~~
18 ~~regulation~~)) of the state board of health. Those students who exhibit

1 a striking behavior or discipline change, or a sudden drop in academic
2 performance may be subject to additional visual screening in order to
3 determine whether the change in behavior, discipline, or grades is due
4 to visual impairment. Personnel conducting the additional visual
5 screening shall use the following screenings, in addition to screening
6 required by the state board of health: Near vision; distance vision;
7 and stereo vision. "Personnel" may include, but is not limited to,
8 ophthalmologists, optometrists, or opticians who donate their
9 professional services to schools or school districts. Prior to the
10 adoption or revision of such rules (~~(or regulations)~~) the state board
11 of health shall seek the recommendations of the superintendent of
12 public instruction regarding the administration of visual and auditory
13 screening and the qualifications of persons competent to administer
14 such screening.

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