

## State Laws Pertaining to Vision and Hearing Screening Programs

### Ohio Revised Code 3313.50. Record of tests; statistical data; individual records.

Boards of education and boards of health making tests for determining defects in hearing and vision in school children shall keep an accurate record of such tests and of measures taken to correct such hearing and visual defects. This record shall be kept on a form to be prescribed and furnished or approved by the director of health. Statistical data from such records shall be made available to official state and local health, education, and human services departments and agencies. Individual records shall be made available to such departments and agencies only in cases where there is evidence that no measures have been taken to correct defects determined by such tests, provided that such records shall be made available to school authorities where they are deemed essential in establishing special education facilities for children with hearing and visual defects.

### Ohio Revised Code 3313.643. Eye protective devices

Every student and teacher of a school, college, or other educational institution shall wear industrial quality eye protective devices at all times while participating in or observing any of the following courses:

(A) Vocational, technical, industrial arts, fine arts, chemical, physical, or combined chemical-physical educational activities, involving exposure to:

- (1) Hot molten metals or other molten materials;
- (2) Milling, sawing, drilling, turning, shaping, cutting, grinding, buffing, or stamping of any solid materials;
- (3) Heat treatment, tempering, or kiln firing of any metal or other materials;
- (4) Gas or electric arc welding or other forms of welding processes;
- (5) Repair or servicing of any vehicle;
- (6) Caustic or explosive materials;

(B) Chemical, physical, or combined chemical-physical laboratories involving caustic or explosive materials, hot liquids or solids, injurious radiations, or other hazards.

Such devices may be furnished for all students and teachers, purchased and sold at cost to students and teachers, or made available for a moderate rental fee, and shall be furnished for all visitors to such shops and laboratories.

The superintendent of public instruction, or any other appropriate educational authority designated by the superintendent, shall prepare and circulate to each public and private educational institution in this state instructions and recommendations for implementing the eye safety provisions of this section. The bureau of workers' compensation shall ensure compliance with this section.

"Industrial quality eye protective devices" as used in this section, means devices meeting the standards of the American national standard practice for occupational and educational eye and face protection, Z87.1-1968, approved by the American national standards institute, inc., and subsequent revisions thereof, provided such revisions are approved and adopted by the industrial commission.

**Ohio Revised Code 3313.68. Employment of medical and dental personnel; delegation of duties to board health or offices.**

The board of education of each city, exempted village, or local school district may appoint one or more school physicians and one or more school dentists. Two or more school districts may unite and employ one such physician and at least one such dentist whose duties shall be such as are prescribed by law. Said school physician shall hold a license to practice medicine in Ohio, and each school dentist shall be licensed to practice in this state. School physicians and dentists may be discharged at any time by the board of education. School physicians and dentists shall serve one year and until their successors are appointed and shall receive such compensation as the board of education determines. The board of education may also employ registered nurses, as defined by section 4723.01 and licensed as school nurses under section 3319.22 of the Revised Code, to aid in such inspection in such ways as are prescribed by it, and to aid in the conduct and coordination of the school health service program. The school dentists shall make such examinations and diagnoses and render such remedial or corrective treatment for the school children as is prescribed by the board of education; provided that all such remedial or corrective treatment shall be limited to the children whose parents cannot otherwise provide for same, and then only with the written consent of the parents or guardians of such children. School dentists may also conduct such oral hygiene educational work as is authorized by the board of education.

**Ohio Revised Code 3313.69. Hearing and visual tests of school children; exemptions.**

The board of education or board of health providing a system of medical and dental inspection of school children, as authorized by section 3313.68 of the Revised Code, shall include in such inspection tests to determine the existence of hearing and visual defects in school children. The methods of making such tests and the testing devices to be used shall be such as are approved by the department of health.

Any child shall be exempted from a dental inspection if he has been examined for dental defects by a regularly licensed dentist, from a hearing test if he has been examined by a regularly licensed physician, and from a visual test if he has been examined by a regularly licensed physician or optometrist upon presentation to the school authorities of a certificate to the effect that he has been so examined during the twelve months immediately preceding the date of such inspections.

**Ohio Revised Code 3313.73. Board of health to make examination; report; recommendations to parents.**

If the board of education of a city, exempted village, or local school district has not employed a school physician, the board of health shall conduct the health examination of all school children in the health district and shall report the findings of such examination and make such recommendations to the parents or guardians as are deemed necessary for the correction of such defects as need correction. This section does not require any school child to receive a medical examination or receive medical treatment whose parent or guardian objects thereto.

**Ohio Revised Code 3323.19. Eye examinations for students with disabilities.**

(A) Within three months after a student identified with disabilities begins receiving services for the first time under an individualized education program, the school district in which that student is enrolled shall require the student to undergo a comprehensive eye examination performed either by an optometrist licensed under Chapter 4725. of the Revised Code or by a physician authorized under Chapter 4731. of the Revised Code to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery who is comprehensively trained and educated in the treatment of the human eye, eye disease, or comprehensive vision services, unless the student underwent such an examination within the nine-month period immediately prior to being identified with disabilities.

However, no student who has not undergone the eye examination required under this section shall be prohibited from initiating, receiving, or continuing to receive services prescribed in the student's individualized education program.

(B) The superintendent of each school district or the superintendent's designee may determine fulfillment of the requirement prescribed in division (A) of this section based on any special circumstances of the student, the student's parent, guardian, or family that may prevent the student from undergoing the eye examination prior to beginning special education services.

(C) Except for a student who may be entitled to a comprehensive eye examination in the identification of the student's disabilities, in the development of the student's individualized education program, or as a related service under the student's individualized education program, neither the state nor any school district shall be responsible for paying for the eye examination required by this section.

**Ohio Revised Code 3709.22. Duties of board of city or general health district.**

Each board of health of a city or general health district shall study and record the prevalence of disease within its district and provide for the prompt diagnosis and control of communicable diseases. The board may also provide for the medical and dental supervision of school children, for the free treatment of cases of venereal diseases, for the inspection of schools, public institutions, jails, workhouses, children's homes, infirmaries, and county homes, and other charitable, benevolent, and correctional institutions. The board may also provide for the inspection of dairies, stores, restaurants, hotels, and other places where food is manufactured, handled, stored, sold, or offered for sale, and for the medical inspection of persons employed therein. The board may also provide for the inspection and abatement of nuisances dangerous to public health or comfort, and may take such steps as are necessary to protect the public health and to prevent disease.

In the medical supervision of school children, as provided in this section, no medical or surgical treatments shall be administered to any minor school child except upon the written request of a parent or guardian of such child. Any information regarding any diseased condition or defect found as a result of any school medical examination shall be communicated only to the parent or guardian of such child and if in writing shall be in a sealed envelope addressed to such parent or guardian.