

Notice of Request for Information

Approved Vision Screening Provider list

The Oregon Department of Education is issuing this Request for Information (RFI) in order to identify qualified vendors able to provide student vision screenings. A vendor must be approved by the Oregon Department of Education prior to providing vision screenings in a school setting. In addition, a school district may be reimbursed only when they use an approved vendor or qualified staff person as identified in OAR 581-021-0031.

Background Information

OAR 581-021-0031 states that education providers require all students who are age seven and younger and who are beginning an education program for the first time to submit a vision certificate. The vision certificate must verify that the student has received a vision screening as well as “any further eye examinations or necessary treatments or assistance of the powers or range of vision of the eye.” If the student enters an educational program without a vision screening certificate, the educational program must provide information on how to access a vision screening and eye examination. The parent of a student may opt the student out of the vision screening certificate if the student submitted certification to a prior education provider or if the student’s or parents’ religious beliefs are contrary to vision screening or eye examination. Although an education program is not required to provide vision screenings, it may elect to do so.

SB 187 (2017) establishes a reimbursement program for districts to be reimbursed up to \$3.20 per each student for costs incurred to provide vision screenings. A “vision screening” is an eye screening test to identify potential vision health concerns. OAR 581-021-0031 identifies who is able to provide vision screenings to students:

- A person licensed by the Oregon Board of Optometry under ORS 683.010 to 683.340;
- A person licensed by the Oregon Medical Board under ORS 677 and trained in eye surgery and eye disease;
- A physician (MD), Physician’s Assistant (PA), Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) licensed by the Oregon Medical Board, a Nurse Practitioner licensed by the Oregon State Board of Nursing, or a Naturopathic Physician licensed by the Board of Naturopathic Medicine;
- A school nurse, a licensed Registered Nurse or Nurse Practitioner working for a school district to provide school health services, or an employee of an education provider who has successfully completed training on vision screening that is provided by a school nurse or, a licensed Registered Nurse or Nurse Practitioner working for a school district to provide school health services.

In addition, an educational program may elect to contract with a vendor to provide vision screenings. OAR 581-021-0031 stipulates that the Oregon Department of Education will annually approve organizations to provide vision screenings to students attending Oregon educational programs. In order to be considered:

- The organization must instruct all volunteers on how to perform vision screening using an established program which is evidence based and uses medically accepted standards for screening by non-medically licensed persons, including volunteers;
- The organization must demonstrate compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA); and
- The organization must use a vision screening method or tool that is designed to detect Hyperopia, Astigmatism, Anisometropia, Myopia, Strabismus, and Amblyopia.

Once approved, an organization may remain on the list for a period of three years.

Reimbursement for Vision Screenings

Each biennium, the Oregon Legislature appropriates money to the Oregon Department of Education for the purpose of reimbursing education providers for vision screenings. The department can only reimburse educational and approved vision screening programs up to \$3.20 per student.

In 2021 the legislature expanded reimbursable parties to include both educational institutions *and* approved vision screening providers. Under these changes, school districts and educational programs can elect to continue receiving reimbursement funds or allow the external vision screening provider to receive funds directly. School districts and educational programs may allow the external vision screening provider to directly access and submit the Vision Screening Reimbursement Form on their behalf.

In the event that claims for reimbursement exceed available funds, the Department will prioritize claims for reimbursement as follows:

1. Claims for reimbursement for pre-kindergarten programs and grades kindergarten through grade 3 shall be paid in full first.
2. If the approved claims submitted for prekindergarten and grades K-3 exceed the amount available in a given year, the reimbursement shall be divided equally among the approved claims.
3. Claims for reimbursement for students in grades 4-12 shall be paid from any remaining funds. Priority will be given to claims submitted by schools that serve the highest percentage of students experiencing poverty.

Application Process

The Oregon Department Education will post a Request for Information (RFI) and accept and approve applications, concluding July 31st of that calendar year. In addition, the Department will convene an advisory group to review applications and make recommendations to the Department. The advisory group shall include

- Representatives from the field of optometry and ophthalmology who have expertise in vision screening and experience in pediatric vision care;
- Representatives from the field of school health;
- Representatives from organizations that provide pediatric vision screening including at least one representative from a culturally specific organization.

Request for Information:

Organization Name		Mailing Address		
Contact Name	Contact Phone Number	Contact Email		
Brief description of your organization:				
Accreditation (if applicable):				
Credentials of licensed screening providers:				
How are volunteers trained to perform high- quality vision screening? Please provide a link to or attach detailed information about the volunteer training program.				
How are volunteers trained to perform vision screenings for young children?				
How does your organization demonstrate compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA)?				
What vision screening method(s) or tool(s) does your organization use?		Is this method(s) or tool(s) evidence based?	Yes	No

Which of these vision conditions can be detected by your organization?	Condition	
	Hyperopia Astigmatism Anisometropia Myopia Strabismus Amblyopia	
What resources does your organization provide for students who are identified as having an eye condition?		
Please attach a copy of a screening report or referral form.		
Does your organization have liability insurance that covers the actions of volunteers?	Yes	No

Organization/vendor certifies that all contents of the RFI are truthful and accurate and have been prepared independently from all other vendors/organizations, and without collusion, fraud or other dishonesty.

Name of authorized representative:	
Title:	
Authorized Signature:	
Date:	