



SCHOOL BOARD ACTION REPORT

DATE: March 6, 2017
FROM: Dr. Larry Nyland, Superintendent
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1. TITLE

Amending Policy No. 3410 Student Health/Home Visits, For Introduction: April 5, 2017
Repealing Policy No. 3431, Hearing and Vision For Action: April 19, 2017
Screening, and Repealing Procedure D104.00, Student
Health Records

2. PURPOSE

This Board Action Report makes edits to Board Policy No. 3410, Student Health/Home Visits, while repealing Policy No. 3431, Hearing and Vision Screening, Procedure D104.00, Student Health Records. These changes are proposed in order to consolidate the district's health policies, meet new requirements in State law regarding near vision screening, and to remove outdated language that does not align with current practice.

3. RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move that the School Board repeal Policy No. 3431, Hearing and Vision Screening, repeal Procedure D104.00, Student Health Records, and amend Board Policy No. 3410, Student Health/Home Visits, as attached to the Board Action Report.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- a. **Background** In reviewing the 33-year-old procedure D104.00, it was noted that the document no longer reflects current health services practice and is therefore irrelevant. Policy No. 3431 is likewise duplicative with the proposed changes to Policy No. 3410, which incorporates a recently amended screening mandated by state law. Because of the amendment to state law, SPS is updating the policy to reflect the new mandate of near vision screening. In reviewing the amended section of Policy No. 3410, the removal of language referring to home visits was done due to the rarity of such events occurring. This removal would not prohibit or stop the rare practice of home visits but is not necessary to be included in policy. The addition of near vision screening for grades pre-K-3 and 5-7 is a significant increase in nurse time needed to complete the screening mandate.
- b. **Alternatives** One alternative is to not amend the Policy No. 3410. This alternative is not recommended, as the policy will not reflect the change in WAC 246-760-001 Purpose and Application of Auditory and Visual Screening Standards for School Districts. Another alternative is to keep the Hearing and Vision Screening policy separate, but staff recommend consolidating the policies for ease of access.

- c. **Research** Statutes consulted in the research for this proposal include the revised WAC 246-760-001 July 2016. Staff also consulted Washington State School Directors 'Association Policy 3410.

5. FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE

The additional requirement for near vision screening is another unfunded mandate from the State. The district will do its best within the current environment of constrained resources to meet this requirement.

There are two possible solutions to completing the additional near vision screening of an estimated 27,000 students mandated by WAC 246-760-001. This estimation of additional screenings includes the growing number of pre-school aged students that must be screened. These students and special needs students require a longer time to screen due to developmental abilities. The screening could be conducted with paper card screening tool. This option is takes more staff time. Each vision screen is estimated to take ~ 7 minutes. (Additional time is required for pre-school and K students or those with developmental delays.)

An alternate approach is to use a vision-screening tool. The tool is very efficient. It takes approximately 3 seconds per student, which keeps students in class longer and requires fewer people to assist with screening. The tool is accurate; it not only provides information required by law regarding near and far vision, but also can alert for other eye conditions. The tool is easily portable and documentation can be automatically downloaded into a health information system. It is particularly valuable for special education students, younger students, and is preferred for pre-K. Each device costs ~ \$7,000. The health services department estimates that one device per region and an additional device as backup would be workable, for a total cost of \$42,000. The department will consult with finance and budget staff to determine the best approach.

Expenditure: One-time Annual Multi-Year N/A

Revenue: One-time Annual Multi-Year N/A

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

With guidance from the District's Community Engagement tool, this action was determined to merit the following tier of community engagement:

Not applicable

Tier 1: Inform

Tier 2: Consult/Involve

Tier 3: Collaborate

The policy amendment simply removes outdated policy and updates the current policy to ensure compliance with state law.

7. EQUITY ANALYSIS

Due to the limited and compliance-based nature of these changes, a full racial equity analysis was not conducted. The addition of near vision screening will in general will be a benefit to those students who don't have access to such screening outside of school.

Vision screening tools that are highly accurate and require less volunteer screening time would be especially beneficial at high poverty schools with less access to community volunteers.

8. STUDENT BENEFIT

The addition of near vision screening could identify those students with vision issues that can be mitigated with corrective lenses.

9. WHY BOARD ACTION IS NECESSARY

- Amount of contract initial value or contract amendment exceeds \$250,000 (Policy No. 6220)
- Amount of grant exceeds \$250,000 in a single fiscal year (Policy No. 6114)
- Adopting, amending, or repealing a Board policy
- Formally accepting the completion of a public works project and closing out the contract
- Legal requirement for the School Board to take action on this matter
- Board Policy No. _____, [TITLE], provides the Board shall approve this item
- Other: _____

10. POLICY IMPLICATION

The applicable policies relevant to this motion are included in the motion itself. In addition, the new vision screenings will support the goals of Policy No. 3405, Student Wellness.

11. BOARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

This motion was discussed at the Operations Committee meeting on March 16. The Committee reviewed the motion and forwarded it on to the full board with recommendation for consideration.

12. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Upon approval of this motion, the listed policies will be amended and repealed.