



FLOYD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
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Consent Agenda Item (Action Item): Review and approve University of Pikeville Ophthalmology Program faculty and advanced ophthalmology students to perform comprehensive vision screening on students enrolled in 3rd and 5th grades during the 2023-2024 school year.

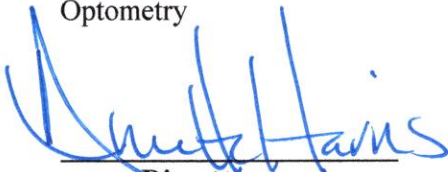
Applicable State or Regulations: KRS 702 1:160

Fiscal/Budgetary Impact: No financial commitment or obligation for Floyd County Schools

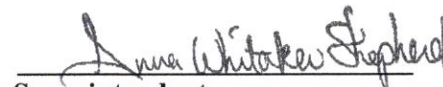
History/Background: According to the American Optometric Association, one in five school-aged children have a vision problem, and one in four need corrective lenses for these visual issues in the United States. Approximately 2% of population demonstrates amblyopia or a lazy eye while 3% of the population has strabismus or an eye turn. As vision problems can worsen with age, it is important that these visual problems are diagnosed and treated in a timely manner to optimize visual function and prognosis. Vision problems can affect a child's development, learning, and social interactions, and identification is especially important to children with learning, development, or intellectual disabilities. During the 2022-2023 school year the University of Pikeville Ophthalmology performed 267 screenings on 3rd grade students and 314 screenings on 5th grade students. 204 students were identified as visually impaired and referrals were made for corrective lens. Screenings were performed in the schools to insure access for parents and students.

Recommended Action: With approval of the Floyd County Board of Education the University of Pikeville Ophthalmology program will continue to provide vision screenings for 3rd and 5th grade students in Floyd County elementary schools. According to the Matrix of Health Services (see attached), a vision screening should be performed in school for 3rd and 5th grade to assess visual status. Upon approval communication regarding the vision screenings will be coordinated through the family resource center directors at each of the Floyd County elementary schools. Vision screening dates for each school will occur in the fall of 2023. Given the optometry student and faculty's availability, these dates will likely occur on Wednesday and Friday mornings in October through December. Parent consent will be obtained prior to screenings.

Contact Person(s): Annette Harris, RN M.S. Ed, Floyd County Schools District Health Coordinator.
Rachel Fitzgerald, OD Assistant Professor of Optometry University of Pikeville Kentucky College of Optometry



Director
Date: 4/19/23



Superintendent
Date: _____

UNIVERSITY OF PIKEVILLE

KENTUCKY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

Floyd County Board of Education - Vision Screening Proposal for 2023-2024

Dr. Rachel Fitzgerald

UPIKE Kentucky College of Optometry

Program Significance: According to the American Optometric Association, one in five school-aged children have a vision problem, and one in four need corrective lenses for these visual issues in the United States. Approximately 2% of population demonstrates amblyopia or a lazy eye while 3% of the population has strabismus or an eye turn¹. As vision problems can worsen with age, it is important that these visual problems are diagnosed and treated in a timely manner to optimize visual function and prognosis. Vision problems can affect a child's development, learning, and social interactions, and identification is especially important to children with learning, development, or intellectual disabilities.

Vision Screening Information: Routine vision screenings are important to determine if a child has developed a new vision problem such as the need for glasses, a lazy eye or eye turn, and any ocular health issues after starting school. Our Kentucky College of Optometry (KYCO) vision screenings are performed by second-year optometry students and overseen/checked by one of our pediatric optometrists typically using a large classroom or gym. While this screening does not constitute nor include a complete, dilated eye exam, this 15-to-20-minute vision screening will assess visual acuity, depth perception, color vision, eye alignment, refractive error, and ocular health. We utilize individual stations for these tests and can usually examine an entire classroom in 45 minutes or less. At the end of the screening, we will complete a report of the child's findings to be sent home to parents and email the family resource directors the overall results and any recommendations for further comprehensive examinations at their local eye provider.

Past Screening Results: Since Fall 2017, the Kentucky College of Optometry has partnered with the Pike County Board of Education and Pikeville Independent Schools to provide vision screenings to 3rd and 5th grade students. From 2017 to 2021, we examined 2,628 elementary school students.

In Fall 2022, we were able to add Floyd County schools to our vision screening curriculum and visited 12 Pike County schools and 7 Floyd County schools for a total of 19 elementary schools. In the fall 2022 semester, we were able to screen **1382 children** (mainly 3rd and 5th grade students). With the addition of Floyd County, our vision screening numbers doubled compared to 653 in fall 2021. While we have had a very consistent 28% referral rate since the program begin (2017-2020) and a 34% referral rate in fall 2021 (likely due to the lapse in vision screenings during the pandemic), our referral rate was even higher (36.5%) for fall 2022.

We believe this largely had to do with this being a first-time screening for the Floyd County schools, limited optometrists in the Floyd County area, continued issues with access to healthcare during the pandemic, and the increase in electronic learning especially following the pandemic. These vision screenings play a vital role in identifying visual issues that could impact a student's performance in school. With these screenings, we can help to make parents and educators aware of any visual problems and refer them to a local eye care provider for further assessment and possible treatment.

¹ AOA Optometric Clinical Practice Guidelines: Comprehensive Pediatric Eye and Vision Examination. 2017. Retrieved from <https://www.aoa.org/optometrists/tools-and-resources/clinical-care-publications/clinical-practice-guidelines>.

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KENTUCKY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

Floyd County Results for Fall 2022:

3rd Grade

School	# Passed	# Failed	Total Screened
May Valley	25	4	29
Betsy Layne	34	14	48
Duff Allen	20	8	28
Jim Stumbo	17	6	23
Allen	20	15	35
Prestonsburg	40	14	54
South Floyd	26	24	50
Totals	182	85	267

5th Grade

School	# Passed	# Failed	Total Screened
May Valley	13	18	31
Betsy Layne	31	14	45
Duff Allen	22	11	33
Jim Stumbo	12	6	18
Allen	27	23	50
Prestonsburg	48	25	73
South Floyd	42	22	64
Totals	195	119	314

Vision Screening Proposal: With approval of the Floyd County Board of Education, we would like to provide vision screenings for 3rd and 5th grade students in Floyd County elementary schools. According to the Matrix of Health Services, a vision screening should be performed in school for 3rd and 5th grade to assess visual status. With approval, we will communicate with the family resource directors at each of the Floyd County elementary schools and finalize a vision screening date for each school in Fall 2023. Given our optometry student and faculty's availability, these dates will likely occur on Wednesday and Friday mornings in September through December.

Health and Safety: To address school visitor concerns, all optometry students are required to complete a background check prior to starting at KYCO. Our administrative staff uses a system to store all of this information including immunizations (TB, Hepatitis B, flu, etc) and frequently monitors it to ensure that these documents remain current. This documentation would be available if needed for approval. Additionally, pending the status of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have established a COVID-19 protocol for our vision screenings, and per the discretion of the board, we will implement any necessary safety precautions for the health of the elementary school students and staff. This protocol was used for all 2020 and 2021 school vision screenings and follows all CDC recommendations for proper hygiene including checking temperatures of all participants at the screening along with all optometry students and faculty wearing surgical masks and gloves during the screening. We also encourage all KYCO students and staff to be vaccinated and boosted, and almost all have complied with this recommendation.

We are very excited for the opportunity to work more closely with Floyd County schools. We believe that this program has had a positive impact on the children of Pike and Floyd counties. Please contact Dr. Rachel Fitzgerald with any questions or for any further information.

Rachel Fitzgerald, OD, FAAO

License Number: 2065DT

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KENTUCKY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

KENTUCKY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY VISION SCREENING INFORMATION LETTER

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The University of Pikeville's Kentucky College of Optometry, in coordination with the Board of Education, will offer free vision screenings for your child during the school year. Even though a vision examination was required when your child first entered Kindergarten, this vision screening is important to determine if your child has developed a new vision problem. Multiple studies have shown that vision can change as your child grows and undetected vision problems can prevent a child from reaching their reading potential and consequently cause a child to fall behind in their learning.

The State of Kentucky recommends yearly vision screenings for third and fifth grade students. With this vision screening, your child will be screened for vision problems such as the need for glasses, an eye turn, or lazy eye; however, this eye screening does not constitute nor include a complete, dilated eye exam. If your child does not pass the vision screening, a report will be sent to you recommending a comprehensive eye examination for further assessment and possible treatment.

The screenings are conducted by a licensed optometrist along with optometry students from the Kentucky College of Optometry. These vision screenings are a free service, and NO insurance will be billed. During these vision screenings, some photos may be taken and used in vision promotion materials.

Additionally, the Kentucky College of Optometry is conducting a research study using the results of these screenings to assess the prevalence of pediatric eye conditions in the region. By agreeing to participate in the vision screening, the results of your child's vision screening will be deidentified and used in this study.

If you have any questions regarding the upcoming screening, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Rachel Fitzgerald, OD, FAAO
Assistant Professor
UPIKE Kentucky College of Optometry
Phone: 606-218-5532

Sharon Blackburn
Clinical Operations Manager
UPIKE Kentucky College of Optometry
Phone: 606-218-5528



KENTUCKY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY VISION SCREENING CONSENT FORM



If you agree to have your child participate in the vision screening and research, no further action is required. A vision screening report will be sent home soon after with the results of your child's screening.

If you prefer for your child to **NOT** participate in the vision screening and/or be included in the research study discussed above, please check the following and return to your child's school.

_____ I request that my child **NOT** participate in the vision screening.

_____ I request that my child's findings **NOT** be included in the vision screening research study.

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Relationship to Patient

Date