

Tier 2 Vision Screening - Technical Assistance Document

In August of 2019, the Utah Department of Health along with the USBE adopted a Tier 2 vision screening policy for schools.

What is a TIER 2 vision screening?

Up until this time, school nurses have conducted Tier 1 vision screenings for specific grades of students. This is a lower level vision screening that assesses basic distance vision.

The adoption of Tier 2 vision screenings is a higher level evaluation that includes near vision and possibly eye focusing or tracking problems, color vision deficiency and screening for convergence insufficiency.

Tier 2 vision screenings can only be done by the school nurse or other health care professional that has been trained.

Who gets referred for a Tier 2 vision screening?

The following students are **mandated** to be referred for a possible Tier 2 vision screening;

1. Students who are being initially referred to special education that are most likely being assessed for a specific learning disability.
2. Students who have failed benchmark reading assessments in grades 1-3.

The following students **may** be referred for a possible Tier 2 vision screening:

1. Students for whom teachers have vision concerns
2. Students for whom parents have vision concerns
3. Students who are an initial referral or up for re-evaluation for special education and the IEP team believes there is a vision concern.

NOTE: Students who are being initially referred for special education still must have vision screening results, however, they may be Tier 1 vision screening results. If there are additional vision concerns a Symptoms Questionnaire should be completed and submitted.

How does a student get referred for a possible Tier 2 vision screening?

IF the student is being referred:

- For an initial evaluation for special education for a possible learning disability
- For an initial evaluation for special education for any classification of disability and the team believes vision is a concern
- For a three year re-evaluation for special education and the team believes vision is a concern
- Because a teacher has a concern regarding a student's vision
- Because a parent has a concern regarding a student's vision
- Because a student in grades 1-3 has failed benchmark on the reading assessment (acadience)

THEN, the general education classroom teacher (or the parent if it is a parent referral) fills out a "Symptoms Questionnaire" form online and submits it. (If the student is being referred because they have failed the reading assessment, the Vision Symptoms Questionnaire should be submitted to the nurses within **45 days** of the administration of the reading assessment.) The nurse will review the Symptoms Questionnaire form and determine if a Tier 2 vision screening is needed.

If the Tier 2 screening is **determined to be needed** by the nurse then the nurse may do one of the following:

- a. A partial Tier 2 vision screening, or
- b. A full Tier 2 vision screening, or
- c. Refer to a professional for a vision assessment

The nurse will document the determined course of action and the results of the course of action taken on SIS (student' SIS screen in the 'Health' box).

If the Tier 2 screening is **determined to not be needed** by the nurse then the nurse will document the decision on Symptoms Questionnaire form and SIS (student' SIS screen in the 'Health' box).

Where does a teacher find the Symptoms Questionnaire form?

The form is located on the OSD website.

- ❖ Click on "Departments"

- ❖ Click on “Student Health”
- ❖ Click on “Vision”
- ❖ Click on “Vision Symptoms Questionnaire”

The form will appear as a google doc that you can type directly into. When completed, submit the form and it will automatically be delivered to the school nurses for their review.

Who does not need to be referred for a possible Tier 2 vision screening?

Students who have failed a Tier 1 vision screening and have had a letter sent home from the nurses referring them to a professional for additional assessment within a school year and do not need to be referred for a Tier 2 vision screening.

How do I know if a student has failed and a letter has been sent recommending further professional evaluation?

This is recorded on the student’ SIS screen in the ‘Health’ box.