

## VISION SCREENING

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**A Guide for Vision Testing California Public Schools(2005)**<sup>1</sup> suggests the following guidelines as “minimum requirements for a testing program at school”.

1. Test all students on school entry and every third year thereafter through grade eight. For example, vision testing may be done in kindergarten or first grade and in grades two, five, and eight, as well as on enrollment and referral at any grade level.
2. Use an optotype test for testing visual acuity at a far point for all students able to read letters. For preliterate students or students with special needs who are unable to read letters of the alphabet, an established optotype vision test should be substituted (for example, Illiterate “E” Chart, HOTV with crowding bars, or LEA symbols).
3. Use pseudoisochromatic plates for testing color vision.
4. Record the results of vision testing on the student’s permanent health record.
5. Have teachers make continual observations of student’s appearance and behavior that may indicate vision difficulties.
6. Conduct vision testing of students whose school performance indicates a vision problem.
7. Retest all students who fail the initial test.
8. Notify the parents/guardians of students who fail the second vision test.
9. Assist parents/guardians, when necessary, in a follow-up program.

**CRITERIA FOR REFERRAL**-For students who fail the retest, notify the parents. Any of the following results is considered failure.

1. A visual acuity of 20/50 or worse for children under six years of age.
2. A visual acuity of 20/40 or worse for children six years of age or older.
3. A difference of visual acuity between the two eyes, for children of all ages, for two lines or more on the optotype chart.
4. A manifestation of significant signs or symptoms (through a student’s behavior, complaints, appearance, performance, or physical activity) that suggest a visual difficulty.

Copies of guidelines are available online:

[www.cde.ca.gov/re/pn/fd/documents/finalvisionreport.pdf](http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/pn/fd/documents/finalvisionreport.pdf)

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<sup>1</sup> A Guide for Vision Testing in California Public Schools, California Department of Education 2005.