

SENATE BILL No. 62

By Committee on Education

1-25

1 AN ACT concerning schools; relating to student vision screenings and the
2 standards therefor; establishing the Kansas children's vision health and
3 school readiness commission; amending K.S.A. 72-6241 and 72-6242
4 and repealing the existing sections.

5
6 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

7 Section 1. K.S.A. 72-6241 is hereby amended to read as follows: 72-
8 6241. As used in this act:

- 9 (a) ~~"School board" means the governing body of any school;~~
10 (b) ~~"school" means all elementary and high schools;~~
11 (c) *"Accredited nonpublic school" means all nonpublic elementary*
12 *and secondary schools accredited by the state board of education;*
13 (b) *"basic vision screening" means an age-appropriate eye testing*
14 *program for each child based on a test chart which is graduated as to size*
15 *of symbols, or the so-called Snellen test, or any other system or method of*
16 *testing equal thereto or better in the judgment of the school board that is*
17 *implemented according to the most recent edition of the Kansas vision*
18 *screening requirements and guidelines and includes referrals for eye*
19 *examinations and necessary follow-ups;*
20 (c) *"board of education" means the board of education of any school*
21 *district;*
22 (d) *"IDEA part B" means all statewide programs providing special*
23 *education and related services to children with disabilities aged 3 through*
24 *5 in accordance with 20 U.S.C. § 1411, and amendments thereto;*
25 (e) *"school district" means any school district organized under the*
26 *laws of this state; and*
27 (f) *"vision screener" means any school nurse, or the nurse's designee,*
28 *or other person who is trained to administer a vision screening test to*
29 *students in the state of Kansas.*

30 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 72-6242 is hereby amended to read as follows: 72-
31 6242. (a) *Basic vision screening shall be provided without charge in*
32 *accordance with the following:*

- 33 (1) ~~Each school board shall provide basic vision screening without~~
34 ~~charge to every pupil~~ *Annually, for every child participating in IDEA part*
35 *B programs;*
36 (2) *at least once each school year for students enrolled in each*

1 kindergarten and each of the grades one through three, five, seven and 10
2 in a school under the governance of such school board not less than once
3 every two (2) years. All such tests district or an accredited nonpublic
4 school; and

5 (3) within the first year of admission for any student who enrolls in a
6 school district or an accredited nonpublic school.

7 (b) (1) Every student enrolled in a school district shall be provided
8 basic vision screening by the board of education of the school district in
9 which the student is enrolled.

10 (2) Every student enrolled in an accredited nonpublic school shall be
11 provided basic vision screening by either:

12 (A) The accredited nonpublic school in which the student is enrolled;
13 or

14 (B) upon request by the student's parent or guardian, by the board of
15 education of the school district in which the student resides.

16 (c) Basic vision screenings shall be performed by a teacher or some
17 other person vision screener designated by the school board of education
18 or by an accredited nonpublic school. Vision screeners shall be required to
19 follow the most recent state vision screening guidelines for performing
20 vision screening. The results of the test screening and, if necessary, the
21 desirability of referral for an examination by a qualified physician, an
22 ophthalmologist or optometrist shall be reported to the parents or
23 guardians of such pupils. Information relating to the desirability of the
24 student. The referral for an examination by a qualified physician, an
25 ophthalmologist or optometrist shall not show preference in favor of any
26 such professional person ophthalmologist or optometrist.

27 (2) The requirements of this subsection shall not apply to a pupil who
28 has had a basic vision screening examination within six months prior to
29 the provision of basic vision screening in the school in which the pupil is
30 enrolled.

31 (b)(d) Each pupil student needing assistance in achieving mastery of
32 basic reading, writing and mathematics skills shall be encouraged to obtain
33 an eye examination by an optometrist or ophthalmologist to determine if
34 the pupil student suffers from conditions which that impair the ability to
35 read. Expense for such examination, if not reimbursed through medicaid,
36 Healthwave, private insurance or any other governmental or private
37 program, shall be the responsibility of the pupil's student's parent or
38 guardian.

39 (e) A Kansas children's vision health and school readiness
40 commission shall be established to ensure the implementation of this
41 section. Members of the commission shall be appointed by the state board
42 of education. The commission shall be comprised of:

43 (1) One optometrist;

- 1 (2) *one ophthalmologist;*
2 (3) *one representative of a health organization dedicated to*
3 *preventing blindness;*
4 (4) *one representative of the department of education;*
5 (5) *one representative of the department of health and environment;*
6 (6) *one school nurse;*
7 (7) *one public health nurse; and*
8 (8) *one school administrator.*
9 (f) *Members of the commission shall not be reimbursed for meeting*
10 *expenses.*
11 (g) *The duties of the commission are as follows:*
12 (1) *Overseeing revision of state vision screening requirements and*
13 *guidelines no fewer than once every seven years;*
14 (2) *providing standardized vision screening referral letters and eye*
15 *professional examination reports as referenced in the Kansas vision*
16 *screening requirements and guidelines;*
17 (3) *identifying state resources that assist in providing opportunities to*
18 *offer free or low-cost eye exams for students who fail vision screenings*
19 *and are unable to afford an examination on their own; and*
20 (4) *establishing a system to collect data from school health personnel*
21 *concerning the results of the original screenings and referral outcomes, as*
22 *well as issuing an annual report to the secretary of health and*
23 *environment and the commissioner of education.*
24 Sec. 3. K.S.A. 72-6241 and 72-6242 are hereby repealed.
25 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
26 publication in the statute book.