

KANSAS OFFICE *of*
REVISOR *of* STATUTES

LEGISLATURE *of* THE STATE *of* KANSAS
Legislative Attorneys transforming ideas into legislation.

300 SW TENTH AVENUE ■ SUITE 24-E ■ TOPEKA, KS 66612 ■ (785) 296-2321

MEMORANDUM

To: House Committee on Children and Seniors
From: Kyle Hamilton, Assistant Revisor of Statutes
Date: February 25, 2019
Subject: Bill Brief on HB 2346

Under current law, the governing body of any school must provide students a basic vision screening without charge at least once every two years. Screenings may be given by a teacher or another person designated by the school board. The screening results are sent to the parent or guardian of the student. Students needing assistance with basic reading, writing and mathematical skills are encouraged to obtain an eye exam by an optometrist or ophthalmologist.

HB 2346 would make several updates and changes to the current state standards for school-administered vision screenings.

Section 1 contains new and amended definitions for terms used throughout the bill.

Section 2, subsection (a) would change how often certain students receive a basic vision screening. Children with disabilities aged 3 through 5 who are receiving services through the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), part B, would receive annual free basic vision screenings. Students of public and accredited nonpublic schools would receive free basic vision screenings in kindergarten and each of the grades one through three, five, seven and 10. Students would also receive a free basic vision screening within one year of enrollment in a public or accredited nonpublic school. Under subsection (b), a public-school student would receive screenings through the board of education of the school district where such student resides and is enrolled. A student in an accredited nonpublic school would receive screenings by either the accredited nonpublic school where the student is enrolled or, upon request by the student's parent or guardian, by the board of education of the school district where the student

resides. Under subsection (c), screenings would be performed by a school nurse or other person trained to give a screening. Such vision screeners would be required to follow the most recent state vision screening guidelines. The screening results would still be sent to the parent or guardian of the student. Under subsection (d), students needing assistance with basic reading, writing and mathematical skills would still be encouraged to obtain an eye exam by an optometrist or ophthalmologist. Subsections (e) through (g) would establish the Kansas children's vision health and school readiness commission. The commission would: 1.) oversee the revision of state vision screening requirements and guidelines no fewer than once every seven years; 2.) provide standardized vision screening referral letters and eye professional examination reports; 3.) identify state resources for students who fail vision screenings and cannot afford an examination; and 4.) establish a data system concerning the results of vision screening and referral outcomes.

HB 2346 would become effective upon publication in the statute book, on July 1, 2019.