

**THE MANDATED EYE EXAMINATION
COMPLIANCE STATUS OF ILLINOIS
SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN FOR THE
2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR**

**ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
DATA ANALYSIS AND ACCOUNTABILITY DIVISION**

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FOREWORD

Eye examination data are collected annually from Illinois public and nonpublic schools. This report is a compilation of the 2011-2012 data on the eye examination compliance status of Illinois school-age children, with the exception of children served by City of Chicago School District 299. The interpretations and conclusions expressed herein are based on the available data and do not necessarily reflect the official position or policy of the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). Inquiries regarding this report may be directed to Dr. Marjurie Ribeiro in the ISBE Data Analysis and Accountability Division at 217/782-3950.

BACKGROUND

As mandated by Section 27-8.1 of the Illinois School Code [105 ILCS 5/27-8.1], all Illinois children entering kindergarten and any children entering any grade level above kindergarten for the first time in an Illinois school are to have eye examinations by October 15 of each school year to be in compliance with the requirements established by the Illinois Department of Public Health. In addition, the Illinois School Code requires all public school districts and nonpublic schools to submit annually to ISBE completed surveys summarizing the vision compliance status of enrolled students by June 30 of each school year. This report summarizes the statewide eye examination compliance data.

MAJOR FINDINGS

The 2011-2012 eye examination status data reported for Illinois school-age children (excluding City of Chicago School District 299) indicates the following:

- The compliance level of all students in all reported schools is 75.68%.
- The compliance level of public school students in all reported schools is 69.58%.
- The compliance level of nonpublic school students in all reported schools is 93.33%.
- A statewide total of 39,282 reported students (24.31% of the total reported student enrollment of 161,546) were not in compliance with the eye examination mandates as of October 15.
- The compliance level of all reported students in kindergarten is 76.11%. Compliance rates for public and nonpublic schools are 73.41% and 93.67%, respectively.
- The compliance level of all reported students in other grades (grades 1-12) is 74.13%. Compliance rates for public and nonpublic schools are 70.98% and 92.42%, respectively.
- Compliance levels obtained for nonpublic schools are much higher than those for public schools, by overall measure and grade level.

LIMITATIONS

The following should be considered when interpreting the results provided in this report:

- Eye examination data reported for public schools do not include data for City of Chicago School District 299, the largest public school district in Illinois.
- Eye examination data represent 2,566 public schools and 845 nonpublic schools.
- Public school eye examination data represent 788 Illinois public school districts.
- In some instances, the total percentage may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

PROCEDURE

Data collection instruments and procedures used to collect eye examination data were developed by ISBE staff in consultation with staff from the Illinois Department of Public Health. The 2011-2012 data collection was conducted using an online system.

School administrators were required to provide information on the total number of children enrolled, the number of children who have received the required eye examination, the number of children who have not received the required eye examination, the number of children who are exempt from the eye examination on religious grounds, the number of children who have received a waiver or exemption, and the number of children with scheduled appointments. The online eye examination survey must be completed annually by June 30.

RESULTS

Compliance Data

Compliance for students was calculated based on the information provided by Illinois school officials. Data reported by school officials show overall compliance with the requirements of the eye examination mandate. Students not in compliance may have their report cards withheld by school authorities.

Students were identified as being in compliance with state law if they presented proof of eye examination; had exemptions for religious reasons on file with the local school authority; had received a waiver for the eye examination due to 1) being enrolled in the free or reduced-price lunch program and ineligible for public insurance (Medicaid/All Kids); 2) being enrolled in Medicaid/All Kids but unable to locate an optometrist or medical doctor who performs eye examinations to examine the child and accept Medicaid/All Kids; or 3) having no medical or eye care/vision insurance coverage and there were no low-cost eye/vision clinics in the community that would examine the child; or were on an approved schedule for an eye examination.

Statewide Compliance

Table 1 in the Appendix (page 6) presents the 2011-2012 compliance levels for all reported school-age children in Illinois. The compliance level of 122,264 reported public and nonpublic school children in Illinois is 75.68%. Of this number, 117,377 children (72.66% of the total student enrollment) completed eye examinations; 4,887 children (3.02% of the total student enrollment) complied by obtaining a waiver, a religious exemption, or an approved schedule for an eye examination appointment; and 39,282 children (24.31% of the total student enrollment) were not in compliance with eye examination mandates (no eye examination or waiver or exemption). (See Appendix, Table 2, page 7).

Public School Compliance

For Illinois public schools, the compliance level for the total 100,177 reported children is 72.65%. (See Appendix, Table 1, page 6). Of this number, 95,944 children (69.58% of the total student enrollment) completed eye examinations; 4,233 children (3.07% of the total student enrollment) complied by obtaining a waiver, a religious exemption, or an approved schedule for an eye examination appointment; and 37,705 children (27.34% of the total student enrollment) were not in compliance with eye examination mandates (no eye examination or waiver or exemption). (See Appendix, Table 3 page 8).

Nonpublic School Compliance

For Illinois nonpublic schools, the compliance level for the total 22,087 reported children is 93.33%. (See Appendix, Table 1, page 6). Of this number, 21,433 children (90.57% of the total student enrollment) completed eye examinations; 654 children (2.76% of the total student

enrollment) complied by obtaining a waiver, a religious exemption, or an approved schedule for an eye examination appointment; and 1,577 children (6.66% of the total student enrollment) were not in compliance with eye examination mandates (no eye examination or waiver or exemption). (See Appendix, Table 4 page 9).

Kindergarten Compliance

Table 5 in the Appendix (page 10) displays the eye examination status of kindergarten students (statewide and in public and nonpublic facilities). The 2011-2012 compliance level for all reported kindergarten students is 76.11%; this includes students in compliance with eye examinations, as well as those with waivers, exemptions, or approved schedules for eye examinations. The compliance rate for public schools is 73.41% and the compliance rate for nonpublic schools, which is generally higher than the rate for public schools, is 93.67%.

Other Grades Compliance

As reported in Table 6 in the Appendix (page 11), the compliance level for all reported students in grades other than kindergarten is 74.13%; this includes students in compliance with eye examinations, as well as those with waivers, exemptions, or approved schedules for eye examinations. The compliance rate for public schools was 70.98% and the compliance rate for nonpublic schools, which is generally higher than the rate for public schools, is 92.42%.

APPENDIX

Table 1 2011-2012 Eye Examination Summary of Reported Educational Facilities

Compliance Status	<u>Public Schools</u>		<u>Nonpublic Schools</u>		<u>All Schools</u>	
	Number of Students	Percent	Number of Students	Percent	Number of Students	Percent
Students in Compliance as of October 15, 2011	100,177	69.58	22,087	93.33	122,264	75.68
Students not in compliance	37,705	27.34	1,577	6.66	39,282	24.31
All Students	137,882	100.00	23,664	100.00	161,546	100.00

Table 2 2011-2012 Eye Examination Status for All Reported Illinois Public and Nonpublic School Students

Compliance Status	Number of Students	Percent
In compliance with complete eye examination	117,377	72.66
Waiver:		
Enrolled in the free or reduced-price lunch program and ineligible for public insurance (Medicaid/All Kids)	1,062	0.66
Enrolled in Medicaid/All Kids but unable to locate an optometrist or medical doctor who performs eye examinations to examine the child and who will accept Medicaid/All Kids	663	0.41
Does not have medical or eye care/vision insurance and there are no low-cost eye/vision clinics in the community that will examine the child	1,184	0.73
Religious exemption	84	0.05
Approved appointment scheduled	1,894	1.17
Students not in compliance	39,282	24.32
All Students	161,546	0.76

Table 3 2011-2012 Eye Examination Status for All Reported Illinois Public School Students

Compliance Status	Number of Students	Percent
In compliance with complete eye examination	95,944	69.58
Waiver:		
Enrolled in the free or reduced-price lunch program and ineligible for public insurance (Medicaid/All Kids)	969	0.70
Enrolled in Medicaid/All Kids but unable to locate an optometrist or medical doctor who performs eye examinations to examine the child and who will accept Medicaid/All Kids	615	0.45
Does not have medical or eye care/vision insurance and there are no low-cost eye/vision clinics in the community that will examine the child	1,080	0.78
Religious exemption	67	0.05
Approved appointment scheduled	1,502	1.09
Students not in compliance	37,705	27.34
All Students	137,882	100.00

Table 4 2011-2012 Eye Examination Status for All Reported Illinois Nonpublic School Students

Compliance Status	Number of Students	Percent
In compliance with complete eye examination	21,433	90.57
Waiver:		
Enrolled in the free or reduced-price lunch program and ineligible for public insurance (Medicaid/All Kids)	93	0.39
Enrolled in Medicaid/All Kids but unable to locate an optometrist or medical doctor who performs eye examinations to examine the child and who will accept Medicaid/All Kids	48	0.20
Does not have medical or eye care/vision insurance and there are no low-cost eye/vision clinics in the community that will examine the child	104	0.44
Religious exemption	17	0.07
Approved appointment scheduled	392	1.66
Students not in compliance	1,577	6.66
All Students	23,644	100.00

Table 5 2011-2012 Eye Examination Status of Kindergarten Students in All Reported Illinois Public and Nonpublic Educational Facilities

Compliance Status	<u>Public Schools</u>		<u>Nonpublic Schools</u>		<u>All Schools</u>	
	Number of Students	Percent	Number of Students	Percent	Number of Students	Percent
In compliance with complete eye examination	77,044	70.53	15,648	90.89	92,692	73.30
Waiver:						
Enrolled in the free or reduced-price lunch program and ineligible for public insurance (Medicaid/All Kids)	653	0.60	76	0.44	729	0.58
Enrolled in Medicaid/All Kids but unable to locate an optometrist or medical doctor who performs eye examinations to examine the child and who will accept Medicaid/All Kids	395	0.36	41	0.24	436	0.34
Does not have medical or eye care/vision insurance and there are no low-cost eye/vision clinics in the community that will examine the child	867	0.79	61	0.35	928	0.73
Religious exemption	48	0.04	16	0.09	64	0.05
Approved appointment scheduled	1,121	1.09	286	1.66	1,407	1.11
Students not in compliance	29,111	25.65	1,089	6.32	30,200	23.88
All Students	109,239	100.00	17,217	100.00	126,456	100.00

Table 6 2011-2012 Eye Examination Status of Students in Grades Other Than Kindergarten in All Reported Illinois Public and Nonpublic Educational Facilities

Compliance Status	<u>Public Schools</u>		<u>Nonpublic Schools</u>		<u>All Schools</u>	
	Number of Students	Percent	Number of Students	Percent	Number of Students	Percent
In compliance with complete eye examination	18,900	66.98	5,785	89.73	24,685	70.35
Waiver:						
Enrolled in the free or reduced-price lunch program and ineligible for public insurance (Medicaid/All Kids)	316	1.10	17	0.26	333	0.95
Enrolled in Medicaid/All Kids but unable to locate an optometrist or medical doctor who performs eye examinations to examine the child and who will accept Medicaid/All Kids	220	0.77	7	0.11	227	0.65
Does not have medical or eye care/vision insurance and there are no low-cost eye/vision clinics in the community that will examine the child	213	0.74	43	0.67	256	0.73
Religious exemption	19	0.06	1	0.01	20	0.06
Approved appointment scheduled	381	1.33	106	1.64	487	1.39
Students not in compliance	8,594	30.00	488	7.57	9,082	25.88
All Students	28,643	100.00	6,447	100.00	35,090	100.00