

**THE MANDATED EYE EXAMINATION
COMPLIANCE STATUS OF ILLINOIS
SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN FOR THE
2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR**

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

MARCH 2014

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FOREWORD

Eye examination data are collected annually from Illinois public and nonpublic schools. This report is a compilation of the 2012-2013 data on the eye examination compliance status of Illinois school-age children. 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 David Smalley in the ISBE Data Analysis and Accountability Division at 217/785-1668.

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 2012-2013 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 52.4%.
- The compliance level of public school students in all reported schools is 47.6%.
- The compliance level of nonpublic school students in all reported schools is 94.2%.
- A statewide total of 125,710 reported students (47.6% of the total reported student enrollment of 264,274) were not in compliance with the eye examination mandates as of October 15.
- The compliance level of all reported students in kindergarten is 65.7%. Compliance rates for public and nonpublic schools are 62.0% and 93.8%, respectively.
- The compliance level of all reported students in other grades (grades 1-12) is 32.1%. Compliance rates for public and nonpublic schools are 26.2% and 95.1%, 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 represent 3,236 public schools and 889 nonpublic schools.
- Public school eye examination data represent 804 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 2012-2013 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 2012-2013 compliance levels for all reported school-age children in Illinois. The compliance level of 138,564 reported public and nonpublic school children in Illinois is 52.4%. Of this number, 133,324 children (50.4% of the total student enrollment) completed eye examinations; 5,240 children (2.0% of the total student enrollment) complied by obtaining a waiver, a religious exemption, or an approved schedule for an eye examination appointment; and 125,710 children (47.6% 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 236,926 reported children is 47.6%. (See Appendix, Table 1, page 6). Of this number, 108,318 children (45.7% of the total student enrollment) completed eye examinations; 4,475 children (1.9% of the total student enrollment) complied by obtaining a waiver, a religious exemption, or an approved schedule for an eye examination appointment; and 124,133 children (52.4% 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 27,348 reported children is 94.2%. (See Appendix, Table 1, page 6). Of this number, 25,006 children (91.4% of the total student enrollment) completed eye examinations; 765 children (2.8% 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 (5.8% 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 2012-2013 compliance level for all reported kindergarten students is 65.7%; 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 62.0% and the compliance rate for nonpublic schools, which is generally higher than the rate for public schools, is 93.8%.

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 32.1%; 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 36.2% and the compliance rate for nonpublic schools, which is generally higher than the rate for public schools, is 95.1%.

APPENDIX

Table 1 2012-2013 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, 2012	112,793	47.6%	25,771	94.2%	138,564	52.4%
Students not in compliance	124,133	52.4%	1,577	5.8%	125,710	47.6%
All Students	236,926	100%	27,348	100%	264,274	100%

Table 2 2012-2013 Eye Examination Status for All Reported Illinois Public and Nonpublic School Students

Compliance Status	Number of Students	Percent
In compliance with complete dental examination	133,324	50.4%
Waiver:		
Enrolled in the free or reduced-price lunch program and ineligible for public insurance (Medicaid/All Kids)	1196	0.5%
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	582	0.2%
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	1320	0.5%
Religious exemption	120	0.05%
Approved appointment scheduled	2,022	0.8%
Students not in compliance	125,710	47.6%
All Students	264,274	100%

Table 3 2012-2013 Eye Examination Status for All Reported Illinois Public School Students

Compliance Status	Number of Students	Percent
In compliance with complete dental examination	108,318	45.7%
Waiver:		
Enrolled in the free or reduced-price lunch program and ineligible for public insurance (Medicaid/All Kids)	1033	0.4%
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	548	0.2%
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	1253	0.5%
Religious exemption	100	0.04%
Approved appointment scheduled	1,541	0.7%
Students not in compliance	124,133	52.4%
All Students	236,926	100%

Table 4 2012-2013 Eye Examination Status for All Reported Illinois Nonpublic School Students

Compliance Status	Number of Students	Percent
In compliance with complete dental examination	25,006	91.4%
Waiver:		
Enrolled in the free or reduced-price lunch program and ineligible for public insurance (Medicaid/All Kids)	163	0.6%
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	34	0.1%
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	67	0.2%
Religious exemption	20	0.1%
Approved appointment scheduled	481	1.8%
Students not in compliance	1,577	5.8%
All Students	27,348	100%

Table 5 2012-2013 Eye Examination Status of Kindergarten Students in All Reported Illinois Public and Nonpublic Educational Facilities

Compliance Status	<u>Public Schools</u>		<u>Private Schools</u>		<u>All Schools</u>	
	Number of Students	Percent	Number of Students	Percent	Number of Students	Percent
In compliance with complete dental examination	84,512	59.6%	16,770	91.2%	101,282	63.3%
Waiver:					0	
Enrolled in the free or reduced-price lunch program and ineligible for public insurance (Medicaid/All Kids)	634	0.4%	83	0.5%	717	0.4%
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	371	0.3%	27	0.1%	398	0.2%
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	1077	0.8%	54	0.3%	1131	0.7%
Religious exemption	75	0.1%	17	0.1%	92	0.1%
Approved appointment scheduled	1,185	0.8%	300	1.6%	1,485	0.9%
Students not in compliance	53,829	38.0%	1,137	6.2%	54,966	34.3%
All Students	141,683	100%	18,388	100%	160,071	100%

Table 6 2012-2013 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>Private Schools</u>		<u>All Schools</u>	
	Number of Students	Percent	Number of Students	Percent	Number of Students	Percent
In compliance with complete dental examination	23,806	25.0%	8,236	91.9%	32,042	30.7%
Waiver:					0	
Enrolled in the free or reduced-price lunch program and ineligible for public insurance (Medicaid/All Kids)	399	0.4%	80	0.9%	479	0.5%
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	177	0.2%	7	0.1%	184	0.2%
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	176	0.2%	13	0.1%	189	0.2%
Religious exemption	25	0.0%	3	0.0%	28	0.0%
Approved appointment scheduled	356	0.4%	181	2.0%	537	0.5%
Students not in compliance	70,304	73.8%	440	4.9%	70,744	67.9%
All Students	95,243	100%	8,960	100%	104,203	100%