

**THE MANDATED EYE EXAMINATION
COMPLIANCE STATUS OF ILLINOIS
SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN FOR THE
2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR**

**ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
DATA ANALYSIS 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 2013-2014 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, tables, and figures may be directed to Marjorie Ribeiro in the ISBE Data Analysis 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.

Methodology

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 2013-2014 data collection was conducted using an online system. The online eye examination survey must be completed annually by June 30. The 2013-2014 eye examination data represent 3,164 public schools including 588 schools from the City of Chicago School District 299 and 810 registered nonpublic schools as of October 15, 2013. One nonpublic school closed at the end of the eye data collection cycle.

Compliance at the student and school level were 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.

The following analysis is conducted with the understanding that percentage of compliance takes the number of students in compliance (i.e., number of students with up-to-date eye examination(s), the number of students with religious exemption and the number of students with waiver(s), and the number of students with approved schedule for eye examination divided by all students reported multiplied by 100.

Limitations

The validity of the data reported is subject to the limitations of the aggregate data collection as it is in Student Health – Immunization data collection. Data is collected at the school level and there is a potential for double counting at the school and district level. Data analyzed from this data collection portal is limited to the frequency counts provided by schools and the description of the school code. The current system allows for numerous stakeholders to revise frequency counts or enrollment figures. Additionally, one public school district reported data for children age 0-6 who are not yet attending early childhood education program, pre-kindergarten students, and students who are aged 19-22 years. The school code does not allow for accounting these special populations. Overall either erroneous data or an over reporting of data is submitted. In the end, percentages may not equal 100 for all data tables and figures due to rounding.

School Year 2014 Results

Compliance Data

Statewide Compliance

Table 1 presents the 2013-2014 compliance levels for all reported school-age children in Illinois. The compliance level of 306,517 reported public and nonpublic school children in Illinois is 46.9%.

Table 1. 2013-2014 Student Enrollment and Compliance Summary of Reported Educational Facilities

Compliance Status	Public Schools		Nonpublic Schools		All Schools	
	Number of Students	Percent	Number of Students	Percent	Number of Students	Percent
Students in Compliance as of Oct. 15, 2013	121,301	42.9	22,546	94.3	143,847	46.9
Students not in compliance	161,318	57.1	1,352	5.7	162,670	53.1
All students	282,619	100.0	23,898	100.0	306,517	100.0

Of this number, 136,376 (44.5% of the total student enrollment) children completed eye examinations; 7,471 (2.4% of the total student enrollment) children complied by obtaining a waiver, a religious exemption, or an approved schedule for an eye examination appointment; and 162,670 children (53.1% of the total student enrollment) were not in compliance with eye examination mandates (having not completed eye examination nor receive a waiver or exemption) (See Table 2).

Table 2 2013-2014 Eye Examination Status for All Reported Illinois Public and Nonpublic School Students

Compliance Status	Number of Students	Percent
In compliance with complete eye examination	136,376	44.5
Waiver:		
Enrolled in the free or reduced-price lunch program and ineligible for public insurance (Medicaid/All Kids)	997	0.3
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	560	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	1,271	0.4
Religious exemption	103	0.03
Approved appointment scheduled	4,540	1.5
Students not in compliance	162,670	53.1

All Students	306,517	100.0
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Public School Compliance

For Illinois public schools, the compliance level for the total 282,619 reported children is 42.9% (See Table 1). Of this number, 114,515 (40.5% of the total student enrollment) children completed eye examinations; 6,786 (2.4% of the total student enrollment) children complied by obtaining a waiver, a religious exemption, or an approved schedule for an eye examination appointment; and 161,318 children (57.1% of the total student enrollment) were not in compliance with eye examination mandates (having not completed eye examination nor receive a waiver or exemption) (See Table 3).

Table 3 2013-2014 Eye Examination Status for All Reported Illinois Public School Students

Compliance Status	Number of Students	Percent
In compliance with complete eye examination	114,515	40.5
Waiver:		
Enrolled in the free or reduced-price lunch program and ineligible for public insurance (Medicaid/All Kids)	899	0.3
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	532	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	1,176	0.4
Religious exemption	85	0.03
Approved appointment scheduled	4,094	1.4
Students not in compliance	161,318	57.1
All Students	282,619	100.0

Nonpublic School Compliance

For Illinois nonpublic schools, the compliance level for the total 23,898 reported children is 94.3%. (See Table 1). Of this number, 21,861 (91.5% of the total student enrollment) children completed eye examinations; 685 (2.9% of the total student enrollment) children complied by obtaining a waiver, a religious exemption, or an approved schedule for an eye examination appointment; and 1,352 children (5.6% of the total student enrollment) were not in compliance with eye examination mandates (having not completed eye examination nor receive a waiver or exemption) (See Table 4).

Table 4 2013-2014 Eye Examination Status for All Reported Illinois Nonpublic School Students

Compliance Status	Number of Students	Percent
In compliance with complete eye examination	21,861	91.5
Waiver:		
Enrolled in the free or reduced-price lunch program and ineligible for public insurance (Medicaid/All Kids)	98	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	28	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	95	0.4
Religious exemption	18	0.1
Approved appointment scheduled	446	1.9
Students not in compliance	1,352	5.6
All Students	23,898	100.0

Kindergarten Compliance

Table 5 displays the eye examination status for kindergarten students (statewide, public, and nonpublic facilities). The 2013-2014 compliance percentage of all reported students are 46.9% for those in compliance with eye examinations including those with waivers, exemptions, or approved schedules for eye examinations. The compliance rate for public schools was 42.9% and the compliance rate for nonpublic schools was 94.3%, which is generally higher than the public school compliance rate.

Table 5 2013-2014 Eye Examination Status of Kindergarten Students in all Reported Illinois Public and Nonpublic Educational Facilities

Compliance Status	Public Schools		Nonpublic Schools		All Schools	
	Number of Students	Percent	Number of Students	Percent	Number of Students	Percent
In compliance with complete eye examination	82,650	40.5	15,444	91.5	98,084	44.5
Waiver:						
Enrolled in the free or reduced-price lunch program and ineligible for public insurance	574	0.3	83	0.4	657	0.3

(Medicaid/All Kids)						
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	379	0.2	17	0.1	396	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	943	0.4	48	0.4	991	0.4
Religious exemption	65	0.03	7	0.07	72	0.03
Approved appointment scheduled	2,172	1.4	274	1.9	2,446	1.5
Students not in compliance	54,416	57.1	913	5.6	55,329	53.1
All Students	141,199	100.0	16,786	100.0	157,985	100.0

Other Grades Compliance

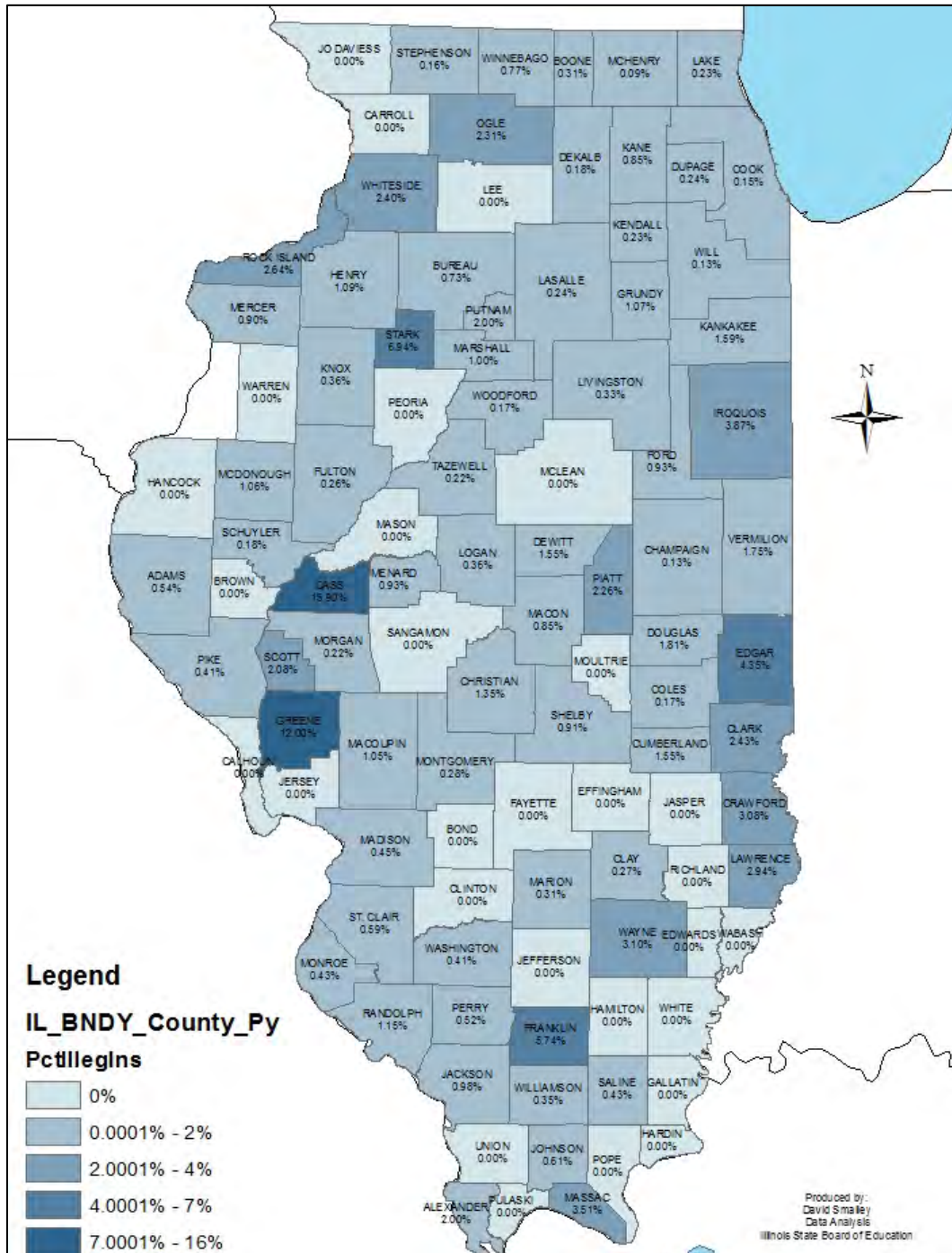
As reported in Table 6 the compliance percentage of all reported students are 46.9% for those in compliance with eye examinations including those with waivers, exemptions, or approved schedules for eye examinations. The compliance rate for public schools was 42.8% and the compliance rate for nonpublic schools was 94.3%, which is higher than the public school compliance rate.

Table 6 2013-2014 Eye Examination Status of Students in Grades Other Than Kindergarten in all Reported Illinois Public and Nonpublic Educational Facilities

Compliance Status	Public Schools		Nonpublic Schools		All Schools	
	Number of Students	Percent	Number of Students	Percent	Number of Students	Percent
In compliance with complete eye examination	31,865	40.5	6,417	91.5	38,282	44.5
Waiver:						
Enrolled in the free or reduced-price lunch program and ineligible for public insurance (Medicaid/All Kids)	325	0.3	15	0.4	340	0.3

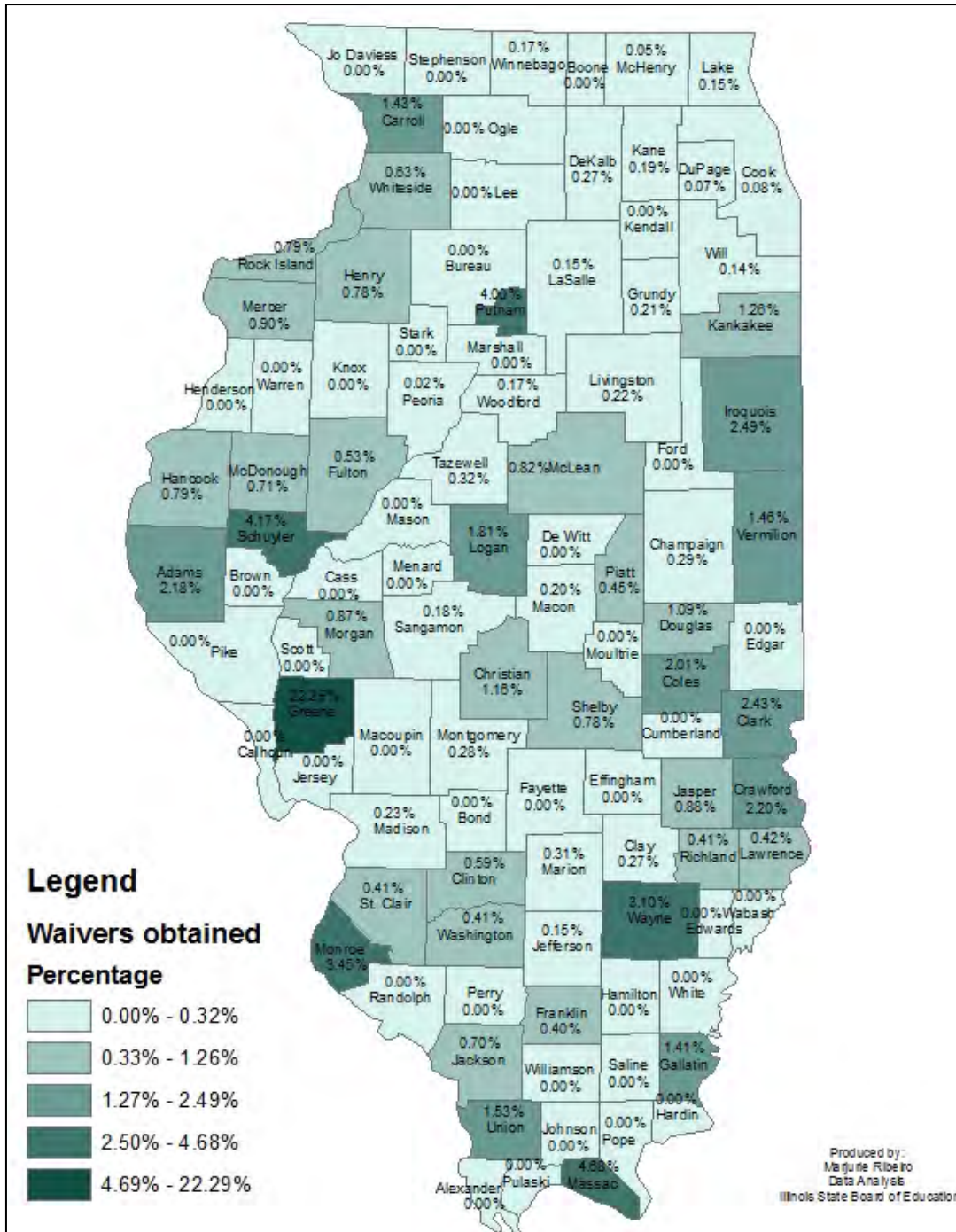
Enrolled in Medicaid/All Kids but unable to locate an optometrist or medical doctor who performs eye examinations to examine the child and who will accept Medicaid/All Kids	153	0.2	11	0.1	164	0.2
Does not have medical or eye care/vision insurance and there are no low cost eye/vision clinics in the community that will examine the child	233	0.4	47	0.4	280	0.4
Religious exemption	20	0.03	11	0.07	31	0.03
Approved appointment scheduled	1,922	1.4	172	1.9	2,094	1.5
Students not in compliance	106,902	57.1	439	5.6	107,341	53.1
All Students	141,420	100.0	7,112	100.0	148,532	100.0

Figure 2: Percentage of Students Ineligible for Insurance



- Cass in Central Illinois has the highest percentage (15.9%) of students who are ineligible for public insurance.
- There is a varied number of counties (i.e. Central, West, Northwest, and Southwest Illinois) with a range of 4.3% to 15.9% percentage of students who are ineligible for public insurance to complete an Eye Exam.

Figure 3: Percentage of Students who need an Optometrist who will Accept Medicaid



- Greene in Western Illinois has the highest percentage (22.3%) of students who are unable to locate an optometrist who accepts Medicaid.
- Western Illinois (i.e. Greene with 22.3% and Putnam with 4.0%) has the most concentrated number of students who need an optometrist who will accept Medicaid/All Kids.