

## School Health Services Guidance for Vision Screening

## Referral Resources - Call first to verify services before making a referral

The school nurse's role is to identify whether there is a need for financial assistance for those students with incomplete referrals.

- 1. School social workers can be helpful in identifying social resources for families.
- 2. Vision Van/Eye Care Charities of Mid America-the van will be scheduled to come to Parkway one time per year.
- 3. MO HealthNet If a parent indicates there is a financial problem, the first step is to determine if the student is financially eligible for assistance through MO HealthNet. MO HealthNet is based on a national student health insurance program for uninsured students. This is a program for medical, dental and vision insurance. Access to these programs is through the Family Support Division (FSD) of the Department of Social Services. Students eligible for free and reduced lunch programs may often meet the financial criteria. If the parent/ guardian does not have a Medicaid card for the student and is interested in exploring their eligibility for MO HealthNet, they should be referred to the county FSD office. The phone numbers are 855-FSD-INFO (855-373-4636) or log on to <a href="https://mydss.mo.gov/healthcare/mohealthnet-for-kids">https://mydss.mo.gov/healthcare/mohealthnet-for-kids</a>. These programs will provide an eye exam every two years, and frames and lenses if needed. New lenses may be obtained on an annual basis if there is a medical necessity. Legal Services of Eastern Missouri also has staff who help families complete Medicaid applications.

## 4. Prevention of Blindness Program

A resource available to all citizens in Missouri is the Prevention of Blindness Program (POB). This program is entirely funded by the State of Missouri, and all funds are expended through a coordinator in the state office. All individuals in the state who are legal residents, regardless of age, are provided eye care services when they meet the eligibility requirements. 15 Eligibility requirements include: • Financial – dependent upon net monthly income, number of individuals in the household, cash and resources other than the family residence. All income generated in the household is taken into consideration. • Visual – eligibility is based on a visual acuity of 20/200 or worse without correction in at least one eye, a progressive eye disease, or malformation or malfunction of the eye. Visual eligibility determination for the Prevention of Blindness Program can be made after a report is filed in the POB office by an eye care professional that has completed an examination of the client. This examination is to determine the existence or nonexistence of disease of the eye, to check for ocular muscle functions, and to determine whether any other ocular problems exist.



The program provides for the purchase of the following:

- Glasses
- Routine and follow-up eye examinations
- Surgery
- Hospitalization
- Anesthetic fees Other services include:
- Referrals to other agencies (public and private)
- Counseling
- Purchase of some medication

The Prevention of Blindness Program accepts referrals from any source, utilizing a form that may be obtained from the county Family Support Division office. The nurse may need to assist the parent/guardian in completing the form to avoid unnecessary delays in getting approval for care. The phone numbers are 855-FSD-INFO (855-373-4636) <a href="https://mydss.mo.gov/healthcare/mo-healthnet-for-the-blind-and-visually-impaired">https://mydss.mo.gov/healthcare/mo-healthnet-for-the-blind-and-visually-impaired</a>.

5. National Association of School Nurses / Vision Service Plan The National Association of School Nurses (NASN) collaborates with Vision Service Plan (VSP) Sight for Students program for low-income students not eligible for government programs. Members of NASN can obtain materials for providing up to ten "gift certificates" for vision care. In exchange, they agree to ensure the student is financially eligible, assist the family with completing the application, and assure the family keeps the appointment. <a href="https://schoolnursenet.nasn.org/blogs/nasn-profile/2017/10/03/advance-your-nursing-practice">https://schoolnursenet.nasn.org/blogs/nasn-profile/2017/10/03/advance-your-nursing-practice</a>
https://vspqlobal.com/cms/vspqlobal-outreach/qift-certificates.html

Additional eyecare/vision resources available at

https://www.mercy.net/content/dam/mercy/en/pdf/mnm-resources/eye-care-vision-resources.pdf