

Below is the email that has gone out to all school nurses in the State approving the spot camera as an alternative to the Snellen Chart. This will remove the restriction that has held up many schools from allowing Lions to screen children with the cameras. While it does not keep them from still using the Snellen chart this should work to transition school vision screening to the cameras. We thank John Frassinelli and Chlo-Anne Bobrowski from the State for working with us to make this change.

Dear Nursing Supervisors,

The purpose of this communication is to inform you of an amendment to Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) Section 10-214(a) which requires vision screening of pupils in certain grades. Effective July 1, 2021, the vision screening required by the statute may be performed using an automatic vision screening device (AVSD). School districts may still use a Snellen Chart or an equivalent screening device, but they are no longer required to do so.

If the AVSD screening results indicate that the pupil should be referred for an examination, existing notice requirements continue to apply. Specifically, the Superintendent of schools shall give written notice to the parent or guardian of each pupil who is found to have a defect of vision or disease of the eyes, with a brief statement describing such defect or disease, and a recommendation for the pupil to be examined by an optometrist licensed under chapter 380 or an ophthalmologist licensed under chapter 370 of the statutes. If an AVSD is used for the screening, this notice should be sent to the parent or guardian whenever the AVSD results indicate that the pupil should be examined. In addition, the statute continues to provide that the superintendent give written notice to the parent or guardian of any child who did not receive a vision screening, with a brief statement explaining why such pupil did not receive such vision screening.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me. You may also wish to consult with your medical director and/or legal counsel concerning this change in the law.

For your reference, C.G.S. Section 10-214(a), as amended, states as follows:

“Each local or regional board of education shall provide annually to each pupil in kindergarten and grades one and three to five, inclusive, a vision screening. Such vision screening may be performed using a Snellen chart or an equivalent screening device, or an automated vision screening device. The superintendent of schools shall give written notice to the parent or guardian of each pupil (1) who is found to have any defect of vision or disease of the eyes, with a brief statement describing such defect or disease and a recommendation for the pupil to be examined by an optometrist licensed under chapter 380 ¹ or an ophthalmologist licensed under chapter 370, ² and (2) who did not receive such vision screening, with a brief statement explaining why such pupil did not receive such vision screening.”

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

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