

State Law Requires Vision Evaluation

The Children's Vision Law

Effective with the start of the 2006–2007 school year, children are required to have a visual evaluation before entering school for the first time in Nebraska, just as they are required to have a physical examination.

The visual evaluation must be completed by an optometrist, physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse within six months prior to the child's entry into school. The required evaluation must consist of testing for amblyopia (lazy eye), strabismus (misalignment of the eyes caused by a muscle imbalance), internal and external eye health, and testing sufficient to determine visual acuity (ability to distinguish objects and shapes).

If parents have questions, they are encouraged to talk with educators or healthcare providers about the requirements. The law is designed to provide an evaluation of the child's vision that is more complete than most vision screenings, enabling parents, healthcare providers and schools to better identify children whose vision may not be sufficient to enable the child to learn to his or her full potential.