AN ACT

Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An act relating to the public school system, including certain provisions applicable as well to private and parochial schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the laws relating thereto," in school health services, providing for eye health examinations.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a section to read:

Section 1403.1. Eye Health Examinations.--(a) Except as provided under subsections (c) and (e), children of school age in this Commonwealth shall be given an eye health examination:

(1) upon admission to school;
(2) while in the fourth grade;
(3) while in the eighth grade;
(4) as part of the evaluation of and prior to the student's educational program;
becoming subject to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Public Law 93-112, 29 U.S.C. § 794); and

(5) as part of the evaluation of and prior to the student's enrollment in a Title I reading program as defined by Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-10, 20 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq.); and

(6) as part of the evaluation of and prior to the student's inclusion in an IEP.

(b) A school district or joint school board that institutes an eye health examination program under subsection (c) shall be exempt from providing eye health examinations as required under subsection (a).

(c) A school district or joint school board may institute an eye health examination program for children of school age. Before a school district or joint school board institutes an eye health examination program under this subsection, the program shall be approved by the Secretary of Health.

(d) The parent or guardian of a child of school age shall submit evidence that the child received an eye health examination in accordance with subsection (a).

(e) This section shall not apply to a child who is not enrolled in a public school.

(f) As used in this section, "eye health examination" means an evaluation performed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist that includes all of the following:

(1) An evaluation of vision history.

(2) An external and internal ophthalmic examination.

(3) An assessment of vision acuity, ocular alignment and motility and refraction.

(4) An assessment of accommodation and binocular vision.
Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.