
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2118 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY ZIMMERMAN, FREEMAN, D. MILLER, McNEILL, PICKETT,
MERSKI, BOBACK, MILLARD, RAPP, HOWARD, STRUZZI, STURLA,
DeLUCA, CIRESI, BURNS, DIAMOND, MACKENZIE, KULIK, JAMES,
TOOHIL, MARSHALL, MARKOSEK, DOWLING, READSHAW, COOK, FRITZ,
SAYLOR, BENNINGHOFF, BRIGGS, OWLETT AND MEHAFFIE,
DECEMBER 10, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, DECEMBER 10, 2019

AN ACT

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

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

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

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

15 (1) upon admission to school;

16 (2) while in the fourth grade;

17 (3) while in the eighth grade;

18 (4) as part of the evaluation of and prior to the student

1 becoming subject to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of
2 1973 (Public Law 93-112, 29 U.S.C. § 794);

3 (5) as part of the evaluation of and prior to the student's
4 enrollment in a Title I reading program as defined by Title I of
5 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law
6 89-10, 20 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq.); and

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 (1) An evaluation of vision history.

27 (2) An external and internal ophthalmic examination.

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

30 (4) An assessment of accommodation and binocular vision.

1 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.