



# Prevent Blindness Wisconsin

## VISION SCREENING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Why is school vision screening necessary?

- 80% of learning is visual.
- One in four school-age children has a vision problem.
- Only an estimated 14% of children receive comprehensive eye examinations before entering kindergarten or first grade.
- Vision problems often go undiagnosed and uncorrected.
  1. Children are usually unaware of their own vision problems.
  2. Parents and teachers can miss problems that are not observable.
- Uncorrected vision problems create barriers to learning.
- Children whose vision problems are corrected usually show improvement in classroom achievement.

### What are we trying to accomplish by conducting a vision screening?

- Screening means testing all children, even those who do not seem to have a problem, to identify those who need more testing or an exam.
- Screening is not meant to diagnose a specific problem but rather to raise a 'red flag' on those children who need to see a doctor for diagnosis and treatment.
- Vision screening raises awareness of all vision problems; students, parents, and school staff become more aware of potential problems.

### What is the role of school staff?

- Provide staff/volunteer assistance for screenings.
- Arrange space for staff/volunteer trainings from Prevent Blindness Wisconsin.
- Assist with preliminary paper work on recording forms.
- Explain screening tests to students prior to the day of screening.
- Practice picture/letter recognition with younger students by using the Lea Symbols practice sheet.
- Assist with contacting parents when the school nurse runs into difficulty with follow-up.