

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4310

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 30, 2018

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Mejia, Auth, Assemblywomen Vainieri Huttel and Mosquera**

SYNOPSIS

Requires young children entering public schools or Head Start Programs for first time to have comprehensive eye examination completed.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Education Committee on February 14, 2019, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/24/2019)

1 AN ACT concerning the vision of certain children and
 2 supplementing chapter 40 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
 3 Statutes.

4
 5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
 6 *of New Jersey:*

7
 8 1. a. The State Board of Education shall require a child age 6
 9 and under who is entering a public preschool, public school, or a
 10 Head Start Program for the first time to have a comprehensive eye
 11 examination completed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist by
 12 January 1 of the child's initial year of enrollment in the school or
 13 program.

14 b. ¹The Department of Health shall maintain a list of resources
 15 from which a parent or guardian may obtain a free or reduced price
 16 comprehensive eye examination for a child. The list shall be posted
 17 on the department's Internet website and updated annually. The
 18 department shall also provide the list annually to each public
 19 preschool, public school, and Head Start Program, and the list shall
 20 be made available by the public preschool, public school, and Head
 21 Start Program to the parents or guardians of all enrolled children.

22 c.¹ A principal, director, or other person in charge of a public
 23 preschool, public school, or Head Start Program shall collect from
 24 the child's parent or guardian evidence of the child's
 25 comprehensive eye examination, as provided by regulation of the
 26 State board.

27 ¹In the case of a parent or guardian who has not provided
 28 evidence of the child's comprehensive eye exam, the principal,
 29 director, or other person in charge of a public preschool, public
 30 school, or Head Start Program shall notify the parents or guardians
 31 every three months following the child's initial enrollment of the
 32 requirement regarding the comprehensive eye examination.¹

33 ¹[c.] d.¹ A comprehensive eye examination that was performed
 34 no more than one year prior to a child's initial enrollment in a
 35 public preschool, public school, or Head Start Program shall be
 36 deemed to satisfy the requirement of this section.

37 ¹[d.] e.¹ The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and
 38 regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
 39 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to implement the provisions
 40 of this section.

41 ¹[e.] f. There is hereby created a special fund in the
 42 Department of Education, which shall be entitled the
 43 "Comprehensive Eye Examination Fund." The fund shall be
 44 maintained in a separate account and administered by the

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
 not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AED committee amendments adopted February 14, 2019.

1 commissioner to carry out the provisions of this section. The fund
2 shall consist of (1) any monies appropriated by the State for the
3 purposes of the fund; (2) any monies donated for the purposes of
4 the fund; and (3) all interest and investment earnings received on
5 monies in the fund. The fund shall be used to cover the costs of
6 comprehensive eye examinations conducted pursuant to this section,
7 for any uninsured children and children without applicable
8 healthcare coverage.

9 g.¹ As used in this section, "comprehensive eye examination"
10 means an evaluation that includes a child's history, external and
11 ophthalmoscopic examination, visual acuity, ocular alignment and
12 motility, refraction, and assessment of accommodation and
13 binocular vision, performed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist.

14
15 2. This act shall take effect in the first full school year
16 following the date of enactment.