

A Report of Vision Screenings

In

Arkansas Public and Charter Schools

School Year 2008-2009

As required by Act 1438 of 2005

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**EXHIBIT H**

Act 1438 of 2005 requires that all Pre-kindergarten, Kindergarten, first, second, fourth, sixth and eighth grade and all transfer students undergo a vision screening. These screenings are conducted by school nurses who receive training from the Community Health Nurse Specialist (CHNS) housed in the educational cooperatives across the state. In 2006, these CHNS received training from the Eye and Vision Commission members as well as other volunteer optometrists and ophthalmologists. In addition, Act 1438 requires that the Eye and Vision Senate Interim Committees on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor two times per year. To meet this mandate, in 2006 school nurses in all 245 school districts as well as the charter schools completed the Vision Summary Form for their school/district. Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, school nurses were able to enter vision screening results into the Arkansas Public School Computer Network (APSCN). This data is compiled and reported to the State School Nurse Consultant twice a year.

## **School Year 2008-2009**

**Overall.** Students receiving a vision screening in the required grades (pre-K, K, 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 and all transfers) numbered 210,766. Referrals to an eye doctor numbered 19,689 students (9%) of which 10,155 students (52%) actually reported to the school nurse they received an exam. Of these students, 8,853 (87%) were identified with a confirmed vision difficulty by an eye doctor.

**Pre-Kindergarten.** Of the 6,390 pre-kindergarten students screened, 351 students (6%) were referred to an eye doctor for an exam. One hundred sixty-six students (47%) actually reported to the school nurse they had received an eye exam and 109 students (66%) had a confirmed vision difficulty by an eye doctor.

**Kindergarten.** Thirty-five thousand three hundred sixty-three kindergarten students received a vision screening and 2,389 students (7%) were referred to an eye doctor for an exam. Of these referrals, 1,349 (56%) actually reported to the school nurse they received an eye exam and 1,065 students (79%) had a confirmed vision difficulty by an eye doctor.

**First Grade.** There were 34,713 first-grade students who received a vision screening and as a result, 2,878 students (8%) were referred to an eye doctor for an exam. One thousand six hundred seventy students (58%) actually reported to the school nurse they received an eye exam and 1,384 students (83%) had a confirmed vision difficulty by an eye doctor.

**Second Grade.** Of the 34,332 second-grade students screened for vision, 3,069 students (9%) were referred to an eye doctor for an exam. One thousand seven hundred thirty-eight students (57%) actually reported to the school nurse they received an eye exam and 1,489 students (86%) had a confirmed vision difficulty by an eye doctor.

**Fourth Grade.** Thirty-four thousand sixty four fourth grade students were screened for vision and 3,768 students (11%) were referred to an eye doctor for an exam. Two thousand one hundred sixteen students (56%) actually reported to the school nurse they received an eye exam with 1,915 students (91%) receiving a confirmed vision difficulty by an eye doctor.

**Sixth Grade.** There were 33,566 students screened for vision. Of these, 3,737 students (11%) were referred to an eye doctor for an exam. One thousand six hundred fifty-six students (44%) actually reported to the school nurse they received an exam and 1,534 students (93%) had a confirmed difficulty by an eye doctor.

**Eighth Grade.** Of the 32,338 eighth grade students screened for vision, 3,497 students (11%) were referred to an eye doctor for an exam. One thousand four hundred sixty students (42%) actually reported to the school nurse they received an exam and 1,357 students (93%) had a confirmed difficulty by an eye doctor.

**Transfer students.** Transfer students were reported in their respective grades as opposed to reporting them separately.

**Other.** All students receiving a vision screening in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 12 were 238,180. That is an additional 27,414 students referred to an eye doctor with 1,651 students reporting to the school nurse they received an exam by an eye doctor. As a result, 1,502 students reported a confirmed vision difficulty by an eye doctor.

**Ark. Code Ann. 6-18-1502. Eye exams.**

(a) (1) A child who does not pass the eye and vision screening tests, except for the color perception test, shall be required to have a comprehensive eye and vision examination conducted by an optometrist or ophthalmologist within sixty (60) days of receipt of the vision screening report identifying the need for the examination.

(2) The parent or guardian of the child shall be responsible for ensuring that the child receives the appropriate eye and vision examination.

(b) (1) If a child does not receive an appropriate examination, as evidenced by a certificate signed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist acknowledging the examination, then the public school or public charter school where the child is registered shall report the child to the Department of Education.

(2) The local school district shall take such action as necessary to encourage that the child receive an appropriate examination

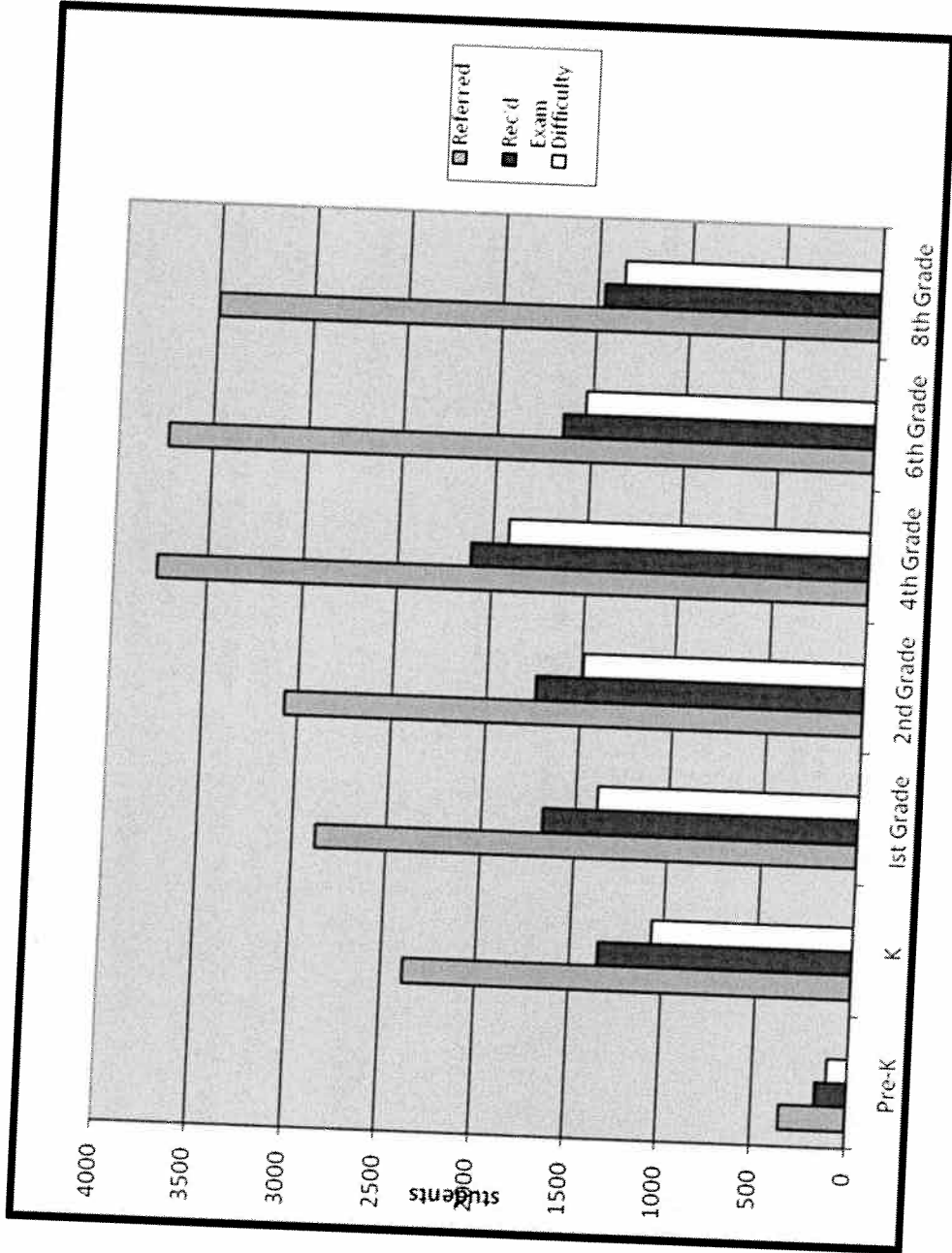
Students who do not pass the vision screening are referred to an optometrist or ophthalmologist for a comprehensive eye and vision examination.

The parent notification/referral letter is available in English and Spanish on the Arkansas Coordinated School Health website, [www.arkansascsh.org](http://www.arkansascsh.org).

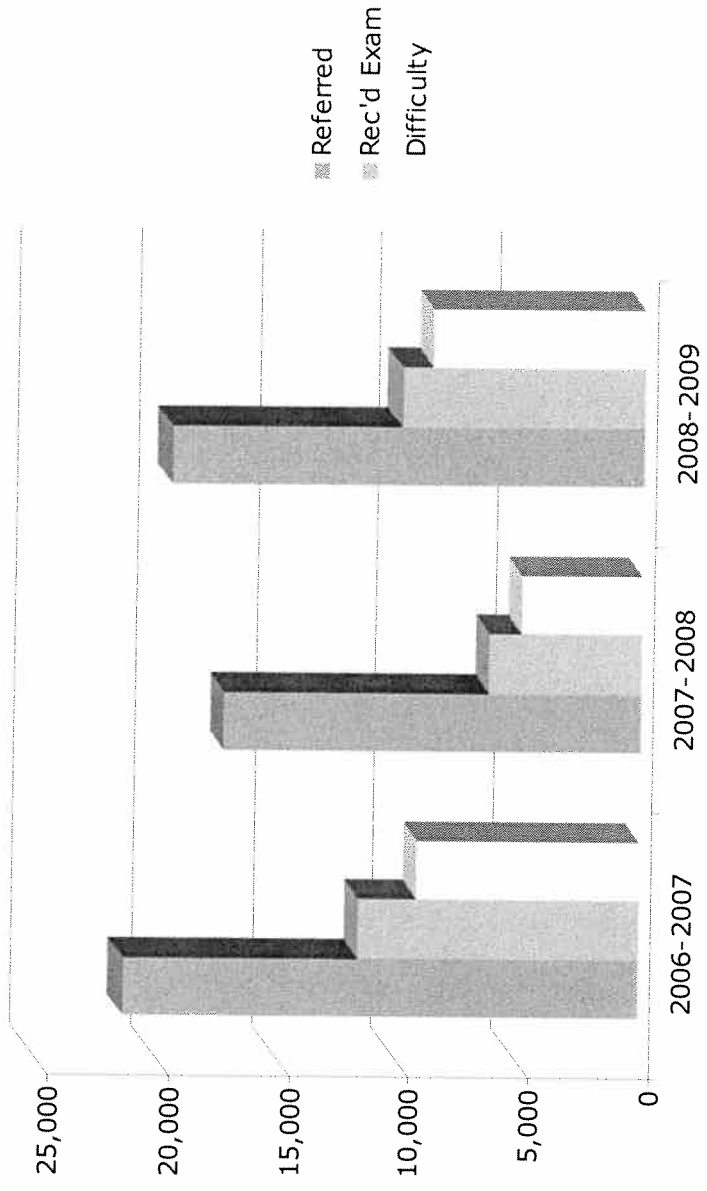
### Vision Screenings, 2008-2009

Grade	Screened	Referred	Received Exam	Confirmed Difficulty	Confirmed Normal
Pre-kindergarten	6,390	351	166	109	57
Kindergarten	35,363	2,389	1,349	1,065	284
First	34,713	2,878	1,670	1,384	286
Second	34,332	3,069	1,738	1,489	249
Fourth	34,064	3,768	2,116	1,915	201
Sixth	33,566	3,737	1,656	1,534	122
Eighth	32,338	3,497	1,460	1,357	103
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>210,766</b>	<b>19,689</b>	<b>10,155</b>	<b>8,853</b>	<b>1302</b>

# School Year 2008-2009



### 3 Year Comparison 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009



	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
Referred	21,456	17,392	19,689
Rec'd Exam	11,715	6,358	10,155
Difficulty	9,277	5,016	8,853