

## VIRGINIA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

<b><i>TITLE: Student Health Screenings</i></b>	<b>POLICY NUMBER: SH 09</b>

### **Policy Statement:**

The Student Health Center nursing staff will provide population-based screening programs to VSDB students. It is an “important component to the school health program and is designed to detect previously unrecognized conditions as early as possible in order to provide early intervention and remediation and limit potential disability and negative impact on school performance.” (Virginia School Health Guidelines, DOE website)

VAC 22.1-273	Vision and Hearing Screening
VAC 22.1-273.1	Scoliosis Screening

### **Procedure:**

The following screenings will be performed for VSDB students:

1. Height, weight, and blood pressure will be obtained annually for all students if not completed on his/her physical exam.
2. Vision screenings will be completed within 60 administrative days from the first day of school for all hearing impaired students in grades K/1, 3, 5, 7, 9/10, and 12. Any abnormal findings at the time of the screening will be provided to the parent and a referral made for the student to have a vision exam by an eye specialist.
3. Hearing screenings will be completed within 60 administrative days from the first day of school for visually impaired students in grades K/1, 3, 5, 7, 9/10 and 12. Any abnormal findings at the time of the screening will be referred to the VSDB audiologist for additional testing.
4. Scoliosis screenings are not performed annually by VSDB nursing staff. Parents are encouraged to have this screening completed during their child’s annual physical exam. It is recommended that children start being screened for scoliosis between the ages of 9-14 years of age. Information about scoliosis will be sent home to parents if requested. VSDB nurses can screen students at the parent’s request.
5. Retinitis Pigmentosa /Usher Syndrome vision exam screenings may be offered to students in the deaf department with parental/guardian consent. These exams are only offered when local ophthalmologists provide clinics on the VSDB campus. Students in the blind department may also participate in the eye clinics as long as parental/guardian consent is on file. When clinics are established, parents will be provided with permission forms to be completed. Parents will be notified of the exam results either by telephone or by a letter from the Student Health Center staff.

Required reports for the Department of Education for vision, hearing, and scoliosis will be completed each year. The DOE reports are numeral values without student name or other identifiable information. These reports provide the grade level and gender of passes/fails based on the original screening and re-screening processes and if follow up care was provided by a healthcare provider based on referrals made to the parents by the VSDB nursing department.

Copies of the DOE reports are retained by the Director of Student Health Services. All individual student screening results are kept in the student's medical file in the Student Health Center and are protected by HIPAA standards. Once the student leaves VSDB, the cumulative health record is sent back to the Admissions Coordinator for storage.

<p><b><i>Rescission:</i></b> Effective Date: June 2015 BOV Approved: September 21, 2016; Revised: August 1, 2022</p>
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