

Vision Screening Rationale, considering ADHS draft rules

In a teaming arrangement of school staff and Lions, over the past several years we have vision screened many students. This is a mutual service to the student community, helping to identify students whose learning ability might be impeded by poor sight.

Vision screening is a tool beyond those that the school staff has available to help struggling students. And we have screened students each year because we all know kids' eyes change considerably during their young years; so, for each student their vision's significant contribution to learning ability can change considerably year to year.

This sound logic used in our screening team effort to serve our students remains valid. Kids changing eyes, and good eyesight's nexus to learning ability are constants. Our teaming now needs to properly address recent rules that implement the law that now mandates vision screening.

The process of laws and regulations is pretty consistent, despite including local flavoring. Laws are voted in by elected officials following political discussion, and are often a set of compromises. Regulations or rules are methods developed by non-elected specialty administrators to implement the provisions of the law. These rules are not allowed to require actions that go beyond the requirements in the law; this is because the non-elected staffs do not have such authority.

Also consistent with the process of laws and regulations, the organizations or individuals who must comply with a rule are not required to limit their authority to only performing the requirements of the rule. They are free to do more. Typically in this process, those working among the rules do more – their responsibilities often require that they do more, and their authority to do such is not denied by the rule, the scope of which is more narrow. We all do this in our lives and our professions. This rule is no different.

This sound logic used in our screening team effort to serve our students remains valid. We can continue to serve as we have been, modified so we comply with the rule. In fact, the rule ought not get in the way of doing what we know from our day-to-day work to be good for our students. Comply, and continue with satisfying responsibilities and exercising authorities to best promote student achievement.