

SCREENING AND IDENTIFICATION OF LEARNING-RELATED VISION PROBLEMS

- WHEREAS, There exists a direct correlation between the ability to see and the ability to learn;^{1,2,3} and
- WHEREAS, Multiple, different visual skills and abilities, such as eye focusing, eye tracking, eye teaming, visual perceptual skills, and visual motor integration, are necessary for successful learning in the modern classroom;^{4,5} and deficiencies in these skills are recognized as being a major contributing factor in a student's poor academic performance;^{3,6,7} and
- WHEREAS, More than 10 million school-aged children suffer from undiagnosed vision problems that affect their ability to learn, ranging in prevalence between 1 in 20 and 1 in 4;^{8,9,10,11} and
- WHEREAS, The current method of school vision screenings, which has been used since the 1800's, test for only one visual skill-distance visual acuity-leaving most visual skill deficiencies undiagnosed;^{3,4} and
- WHEREAS, Upon detection, treatment for a deficiency in visual skills, ranging in nature from specialized glasses, with lenses not used for correcting nearsightedness or farsightedness, to home- or office-based therapy, are non-invasive, and effective;^{12,13,14} now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, That Utah PTA, with its constituent organizations, encourage the education of teachers, parents, guardians, volunteers, school administrators, etc., about the various visual skills needed in the classroom, screening for visual skills deficiencies, and treatment options for such learning-related vision problems; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA encourages implementation of up-to-date and effective vision screenings in schools; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA encourage the use of volunteers and trained professionals to assist in school vision screenings, as stated in UCA 53A-11-203; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA will seek and support legislation that will improve the awareness and detection of learning-related vision problems that adversely affect students in the classroom, and provide necessary funding for such actions.

Documentation:

- ¹American Optometric Association. (2014). *School-aged Vision: 6 to 18 years of Age*. Retrieved November 15, 2014 from AOA.org: <http://www.aoa.org/patients-and-public/good-vision-throughout-life/childrens-vision/school-aged-vision-6-to-18-years-of-age?sso=y>
- ²About Health. (2013). *Expert Answers to Ten Common Questions about Vision and Learning*. Retrieved November 15, 2014 from About.com: <http://vision.about.com/od/childrensvision/tp/Expert-Answers-To-Ten-Common-Questions-About-Vision-And-Learning.htm>
- ³Utah Department of Health and Utah Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired. (2013). *State of Utah School Vision Screening Guidelines*. Retrieved November 15, 2014 from UDOH: <http://www.schools.utah.gov/charterschools/School-Resources/Guidance-and-Procedures/School-Vision-Screening-Guidelines-2013.aspx>

- ⁴Barton, Mary. *Vision and Reading*. Retrieved November 15, 2014 from Children's Vision Information Network: <http://www.childrevisions.com/reading.htm>
- ⁵Cook, David. (2004). *When your child struggles*. Atlanta, GA: Invision Press.
- ⁶Hennessey D, Iosue RA, Rouse MW. *Relation of symptoms to accommodative infacility of school-aged children*. Am J Opt Phys Optics 1984;61(3):177-83. Retrieved November 15, 2014 from <http://www.aspirevisioncare.com/documents/VisionLearningDyslexia.pdf>
- ⁷Simons HD, Grisham JD. (1987). *Binocular anomalies and reading problems*. Retrieved November 15, 2014 from Journal of American Optometric Association from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?Db=pubmed&Cmd=ShowDetailView&TermToSearch=3312379>
- ⁸Porcar E., Martinez-Palomera A. (1997). *Prevalence of general binocular dysfunctions in a population of university students*. Retrieved November 15, 2014 from Optom Vis Sci. Feb; 74(2):111-3: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9097328>
- ⁹American Optometric Association. (2002). *Pediatric Eye and Vision Examination*. Retrieved November 15, 2014 from aoa.org: <http://www.aoa.org/documents/CPG-2.pdf>
- ¹⁰Optometric Management. (2009). *Identify binocular vision disorders*. Retrieved November 15, 2014 from Optometricmanagement.com : <http://www.optometricmanagement.com/articleviewer.aspx?articleid=103756>
- ¹¹Maino, Dominick M. (2010). *The binocular vision dysfunction pandemic*. Retrieved November 15, 2014 from Optometry and Vision Development: http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.covd.org/resource/resmgr/ovd41-1/editorial_binocularpandemic.pdf
- ¹²American Optometric Association. (2008). *Care of the patient with Learning Related Vision Problems*. Retrieved November 15, 2014 from aoa.org: <http://www.aoa.org/documents/CPG-20.pdf>
- ¹³American Medical Association. (2008) Retrieved November 15, 2014, from http://www.convergenceinsufficiency.net/uploads/CITT_Arch_2008.pdf
- ¹⁴American Optometric Association. (2014). *Vision Therapy*. Retrieved November 15, 2014, from aoa.org: <http://www.aoa.org/optometrists/education-and-training/clinical-care/vision-therapy>