

## SCREENING

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Screening plays an important role in providing appropriate services and supports to children in our school system. Screening provides an essential mechanism to identify student needs.

### HEARING SCREENING

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#### *Purpose*

The purpose of the hearing loss screening program is to identify children who may have educational difficulties due to a hearing loss. Early identification will ensure that such children will receive appropriate habilitative, educational and/or medical follow-up.

#### *The Screening Process in Schools*

The first stage involves screening the hearing of large numbers of children in the recommended target population (listed below). This first stage indicates which children might have hearing loss. These children are screened a second time. If the results suggest a potential hearing loss, these children are referred to an audiologist for a complete hearing assessment.

The hearing screening procedure should take about two minutes per child. An audiologist, trained volunteer or school division staff member administers a short hearing test using an audiometer. In some Regional Health Authorities (RHAs), audiometers can be obtained through the audiology department for school screening. The audiometer produces different pitches (frequencies) of sound at varying loudness through ear phones. Children indicate when they hear the sound by raising a hand or arm. Children who do not respond appropriately through two screenings should be referred to an audiologist for further testing.

#### RECOMMENDED POPULATIONS FOR HEARING LOSS SCREENING:

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- Children in Kindergarten and Grade 1
- Children with known hearing problems
- Children referred because of parental or teacher suspicions of hearing loss
- Children who are new to the school division/district

*For more information contact:*

Senior Audiologist  
Brandon Regional Health Authority  
Unit A5, 800 Rosser Avenue  
Brandon, MB R7A 6N5

Phone: 204-571-8368

Fax: 204-726-8743

## VISION SCREENING

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### ***Purpose***

Schools in Manitoba conduct vision screening sessions throughout the year. Members of the Manitoba Ophthalmological Society, the Manitoba Association of Optometrists, Manitoba Health, Manitoba Education, Training and Youth and the Canadian National Institute for the Blind form the Provincial Vision Conservation Committee. They endorse the screening of students' vision in school to detect visual/difficulties in kindergarten and Grades 1, 3, 5, 7, Senior 1 and Senior 3. The school divisions/ districts report their data to the Coordinator of Services for the Visually Impaired at Manitoba Education, Training and Youth.

Manitoba Education, Training and Youth supports the work of the Committee through Program and Student Services Branch and Special Materials Services.

### **Special Materials Services provides:**

1. Training manuals for screening
2. Screening equipment for loan
3. Equipment repair/refurbishing

### ***Screening Process***

Screenings are conducted by a variety of people including school staff and parent volunteers. Training sessions for screeners are led by Program and Student Services Branch staff throughout the year.

*For more information contact:*

Coordinator  
Blind & Visually Impaired Services Unit  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Floor – 1181 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3G 0T3

Phone: 204-945-7840

Fax: 204-945-7914