

HEALTH POLICY
RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Policies for Mandated Screenings

Lead Screening

Vision Screening

Hearing Screening

Speech Language Screening

Scoliosis Screening

Dental Screening

Purpose: In accordance with RIGL Chapter 16-21-9, each community shall provide adequate and appropriate personnel to conduct mandated population-based health services for all students attending the Rhode Island School for the Deaf. School screenings under these regulations are intended to supplement, not supplant, oversight of care by the student's primary care provider.

Lead Screening

In accordance with RIGL §23-24.6-8, the Rhode Island School for the Deaf shall obtain from a parent evidence that said child has been screened for lead poisoning , or a certificate signed by the parent stating blood testing is contrary to that person's beliefs.

Vision Screening

(A) upon entering kindergarten or within thirty days after school entry at any grade, the parent or guardian of each child shall present certification that the student within the previous 12 months has passed a vision screening conducted by personnel approved by the Department. For students who fail the screening and for students diagnosed with neurodevelopmental delay, evidence of a comprehensive eye examination shall be provided to the school (10.1). Any examiner shall forward a written report of the results

to the school health personnel and shall include a summary of significant findings and any recommended educational adjustments (10.1.2) and recommended educational adjustments for the child (10.1.3.6)

(B) Every student shall be given a vision screening at least upon entry to school and in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th and 9th grades. If sufficient evidence is given that a student has had a test or screening commensurate with RI Regulations, the student shall be exempt from the screening requirement for that school year.

(C) Results of examinations will be given to the Board of Health if directed.

(D) Screenings of sight shall be performed by the school nurse or others approved by the Department for this purpose, in accordance with guidelines of the Department.

(E) Any student who does not pass a vision screening will be rescreened on a different day. Parents shall be notified if the child does not pass the screening a second time, and be referred for a comprehensive vision eye examination.

(F) A student's vision screening results will be documented in the "Vision Screening" section of the health record.

Hearing Screening

All students at the Rhode Island School for the Deaf who are deaf or hard of hearing are followed by either on premise audiologists or by an independent audiologist.

Audiology will share with the school nurse any annual reports and pertinent information will be implemented in the IEP for each student. Parents may submit outside audiology reports to the school to be incorporated into the student health record.

Equipment

All equipment utilized in hearing screening and audiology testing shall be calibrated according to current national standards, as described in the Guidelines for Audiologic Screening; ANSI/ASA Specifications for Audiometers; and ANSI Specifications for Instruments to Measure Aural Acoustic Impedance and Admittance (Aural Acoustic Immittance).

Personnel Requirements

The Rhode Island School for the Deaf surpasses the requirements by having two full time audiologists on staff and is a referral agency for children failing their hearing screenings.

Speech Language Screening

(A) Every student not previously screened for speech/language challenges shall be screened by a trained and qualified person (as described in 12.4 and 12.5 of the RI regulations). Any student may be screened for these challenges on an “as needed” basis. At the Rhode Island School for the Deaf, students are assessed for language, language meaning not only confined to a spoken language, but including American Sign Language. All students have access to a speech language pathologist.

1. For students previously screened, the results of the screening will be transferred should the student change schools or change school districts, according to 15.3 of the RI regulations.

(B) Any student whose parent provides documentation that a speech and language screening has been performed by a certified &/or licensed Speech/Language Pathologist shall be exempt from this requirement.

1. The Rhode Island School for the Deaf will make provisions for the screening as described by Law if there is no documentation from the parent.

(C) A speech/language screening will consist of an assessment of the following:

- 12.3.1 articulation
- 12.3.2 voice characteristics
- 12.3.3 fluency (i.e., stuttering)

12.3.4 receptive/expressive language skills*

*At the Rhode Island School for the Deaf, an assessment will be performed in American Sign Language, English, and/or the language used at home.

This screening may be performed annually as needed .

Personnel Requirements

RI Dept of Elementary and Secondary Education certified speech language pathologist shall be responsible for implementing the requirements of the Regulations (§12.0)

Any support personnel shall meet the training and supervision requirements outlined in the *Rules and Regulations for Licensing Speech Pathologists and Audiologists*.

Follow-up and Documentation Requirements

12.8 A student not passing the speech/language screening shall be referred immediately for a comprehensive speech/language evaluation. The parent shall be notified of the findings, in accordance with the requirements of §16.0 of these Regulations. Results will be recorded in the student's IEP book, under speech/language and recorded in the IEP and shall include date of screening, screening results (ie. pass/fail) and follow-up plan for students that do not pass.

Scoliosis Screening

(A) Students will be informed of the nature of the scoliosis screening before it is done.

(B) The school health program shall provide for annual screening of students in grades 6 through 8. All results will be recorded on the school health record.

(C) Parents may have their children screened by a private provider. Results of the screening shall be provided to the school nurse. Such student will be exempt from participating in the school screening. The test shall not be required of any student whose parents object on the grounds that the test conflicts with their religious beliefs.

(D) Screenings will be done privately in the school nurse's office.

(E) All scoliosis screenings will be performed by the school nurse teacher in accordance with RIGL §16-21-10.

Follow-up and Documentation Requirements

In accordance with these requirements, the school nurse will be responsible for notifying the parent of any child who is found to have positive signs or symptoms of scoliosis, in order to arrange for further evaluation or treatment if necessary.

Dental Health Screenings

General requirements include:

- A. Every student who has not been previously enrolled in a public or non public school shall be given a dental screening by a licensed dentist or licensed dental hygienist with at least 3 years of clinical experience. Section 14.1 in the Rules and Regulations state requirements for screenings are through grades 5 and then grades 6 and 10. At the Rhode Island School for the Deaf all students are screened due to low population and a high poverty rate.
- B. Students who are screened by a private dentist or dental hygienist and who provide written documentation before the school screening, will be exempt and parents may elect not to have their child screened.
- C. Non-invasive inspection of the student's mouth, students will be referred according to the referral criteria listed below.

Category	Referral Criteria
Hard tissue (dentition)	Suspicious tooth decay
Soft tissue (gums)	1.Gross gingival inflammation 2.Soft tissue lesions
Treatment Urgency	1. No apparent need for care 2. Apparent need for routine, non-urgent care 3. Emergency need/immediate referral recommended

- D. All such screenings shall be documented in the health record and submitted to the Department of Health as per their reporting requirements.

Follow up and Documentation Requirements

The parent shall be notified in writing when a dental screening shows that a dental problem exists. Dental screening results will be recorded on the health record.

The Rhode Island School for the Deaf will supply the parents/guardians with a current list of free and reduced payment dental services, provided by the Rhode Island Department of Human Services. The information will include the addresses and telephone numbers of dental practices that accept patients insured by Medical Assistance and/or RIte care and dental practices that provide services on a sliding scale basis.