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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

H. F. No. 628

02/05/2015 Authored by Barrett, Erickson, Mariani, Ward, Lohmer and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services Reform

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to education; requiring a comprehensive vision examination before
1.3 kindergarten enrollment; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 121A.17,
1.4 subdivision 3.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 121A.17, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

1.7 Subd. 3. **Screening program.** (a) A screening program must include at least the
1.8 following components: developmental assessments, hearing ~~and vision~~ screening or
1.9 referral, vision screening and comprehensive vision examination review and referral,
1.10 immunization review and referral, the child's height and weight, identification of risk
1.11 factors that may influence learning, an interview with the parent about the child, and
1.12 referral for assessment, diagnosis, and treatment when potential needs are identified.
1.13 The district and the person performing or supervising the screening must provide a
1.14 parent or guardian with clear written notice that the parent or guardian may decline to
1.15 answer questions or provide information about family circumstances that might affect
1.16 development and identification of risk factors that may influence learning. The notice
1.17 must state "Early childhood developmental screening helps a school district identify
1.18 children who may benefit from district and community resources available to help in their
1.19 development. Early childhood developmental screening includes a vision screening that
1.20 helps detect potential eye problems but is not a substitute for a comprehensive eye exam."
1.21 The notice must clearly state that declining to answer questions or provide information
1.22 does not prevent the child from being enrolled in kindergarten or first grade if all other
1.23 screening components are met. If a parent or guardian is not able to read and comprehend
1.24 the written notice, the district and the person performing or supervising the screening

2.1 must convey the information in another manner. The notice must also inform the parent
2.2 or guardian that a child need not submit to the district screening program if the child's
2.3 health records indicate to the school that the child has received comparable developmental
2.4 screening performed within the preceding 365 days by a public or private health care
2.5 organization or individual health care provider. The notice must be given to a parent or
2.6 guardian at the time the district initially provides information to the parent or guardian
2.7 about screening and must be given again at the screening location.

2.8 (b) All screening components shall be consistent with the standards of the state
2.9 commissioner of health for early developmental screening programs. A developmental
2.10 screening program must not provide laboratory tests or a physical examination to any
2.11 child. The district must request from the public or private health care organization or the
2.12 individual health care provider the results of any laboratory test or physical examination
2.13 within the 12 months preceding a child's scheduled screening. For the purposes of this
2.14 section, "comprehensive vision examination" means a vision examination performed by
2.15 an optometrist or ophthalmologist.

2.16 (c) If a child is without health coverage, the school district must refer the child to an
2.17 appropriate health care provider.

2.18 (d) A board may offer additional components such as nutritional, physical and
2.19 dental assessments, review of family circumstances that might affect development, blood
2.20 pressure, laboratory tests, and health history.

2.21 (e) If a statement signed by the child's parent or guardian is submitted to the
2.22 administrator or other person having general control and supervision of the school that
2.23 the child has not been screened because of conscientiously held beliefs of the parent
2.24 or guardian, the screening is not required.