

MISSISSIPPI EYE SCREENING PROGRAM



2019 - 2020 FINAL REPORT

"This screening is **wonderful**. It **benefits our students** each year!"



INSIDE: Stories about these young students, many more school comments, and detailed information about this year's program.

"This is an **awesome** program."

"I cannot think of a **better service** for our students!"



"This program finds **problems that would otherwise be missed**."

"A **great asset** for our students."

"Our school loves this **invaluable service** and is so appreciative."

"**Great program!**"



"Thank you for helping our students **be successful in school, and in life.**"

These QUOTES about this year's program are from written comments by school nurses and staff. The PHOTOS here are just a few of the thousands of young students who benefited from this year's program.

This eye screening program was conducted by Vision Research Corporation.
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FINAL REPORT ON THE 2019-20 Mississippi Eye Screening Program

In Brief...

The Mississippi Eye Screening Program is provided statewide, with the screenings performed on-site at public schools throughout the state. About 34,000 students in over 350 schools were screened this year.

A child who cannot see well is at an obvious disadvantage in the classroom. Worse, those who fall behind early in their education often stay behind. Early-age uncorrected vision problems can truly have a lifetime impact. This important screening program helps assure Mississippi's children start school as well prepared as possible. In addition, it identifies problems that can result in permanent vision impairment if not detected and corrected at an early age.

Over 5,000 students with possible problems significant enough to warrant professional attention were identified by this year's program. All of these children were referred to Sight Savers America for managed follow-up, helping assure they receive the care and treatment needed.

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- Results by County
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- More Comments from the Schools
- Some of the Children Helped
By This Year's Program *
- Odds and Ends

* All pictures and related text in this report are used with the specific permission of each child's parent or guardian.

FINAL RESULTS

Summary of Significant and Possibly Significant Findings

See 'Vision Screening Analysis Notes' for explanations and important notes.

Total Locations Included 350

Total Subjects Analyzed 33,905

Problem Counts by Type

	Refractive Errors				Align	Opac	Other
	Hyper	Myop	Astig	Aniso			
Poss Sig	718	825	1,707	1,637	389	62	245
Significant	514	464	253	187	264	13	8
TOTAL	1,232	1,289	1,960	1,824	653	75	253
Poss Sig	2.1%	2.4%	5.0%	4.8%	1.1%	0.2%	0.7%
Significant	1.5%	1.4%	0.7%	0.6%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%
TOTAL	3.6%	3.8%	5.8%	5.4%	1.9%	0.2%	0.7%

Note: Categorized problems will typically add to more than the 'Subject Counts' because of subjects with multiple entries.

Total Subject Counts

Subjects that were...		Total
Possibly Significant	Significant	Significant + Possibly Significant
4,022	1,455	5,477
11.9%	4.3%	16.2%

Summary by County

Mississippi Eye Screening Program 2019-20

Key to Column Headings

<i>Locs</i>	The number of on-location visits to schools for the screenings
<i>#Scrnd</i>	The number of students screened
<i>#Analyzed</i>	The number of students screened with fully analyzable results
<i>Poss Sig</i>	The number of students with possibly significant problems indicated
<i>Sig</i>	The number of students with significant problems indicated
<i>Total PS+Sig</i>	The total of Poss Sig and Sig problems indicated
<i>% PS+Sig</i>	The Poss Sig and Sig problems indicated as a percent of Analyzed

County	Locs	#Scrnd	#Analyzed	Poss Sig	Sig	Total PS+Sig	%Poss Sig	% Sig	% PS+Sig
Adams	3	186	180	19	6	25	10.6%	3.3%	13.9%
Alcorn	4	452	438	44	12	56	10.0%	2.7%	12.8%
Amite	1	55	54	6	2	8	11.1%	3.7%	14.8%
Attala	2	56	55	10	1	11	18.2%	1.8%	20.0%
Benton	2	84	83	11	4	15	13.3%	4.8%	18.1%
Bolivar	7	248	242	42	14	56	17.4%	5.8%	23.1%
Calhoun	3	172	171	19	4	23	11.1%	2.3%	13.5%
Carroll	1	48	48	6	3	9	12.5%	6.3%	18.8%
Chickasaw	2	243	242	19	12	31	7.9%	5.0%	12.8%
Choctaw	3	94	90	11	3	14	12.2%	3.3%	15.6%
Claiborne	1	93	84	11	5	16	13.1%	6.0%	19.0%
Clarke	3	285	282	38	10	48	13.5%	3.5%	17.0%
Clay	2	193	187	22	5	27	11.8%	2.7%	14.4%
Coahoma	9	558	536	60	30	90	11.2%	5.6%	16.8%
Copiah	2	284	276	29	10	39	10.5%	3.6%	14.1%
Covington	4	237	232	29	12	41	12.5%	5.2%	17.7%
DeSoto	9	1415	1405	195	67	262	13.9%	4.8%	18.6%
Forrest	12	1368	1351	146	55	201	10.8%	4.1%	14.9%
Franklin	1	88	83	7	5	12	8.4%	6.0%	14.5%
George	5	417	406	52	24	76	12.8%	5.9%	18.7%
Greene	3	125	124	16	6	22	12.9%	4.8%	17.7%
Grenada	1	611	594	66	20	86	11.1%	3.4%	14.5%
Hancock	5	414	403	44	14	58	10.9%	3.5%	14.4%
Harrison	27	2401	2310	314	91	405	13.6%	3.9%	17.5%
Hinds	7	522	510	53	17	70	10.4%	3.3%	13.7%
Holmes	4	143	132	16	1	17	12.1%	0.8%	12.9%
Humphreys	2	374	360	41	24	65	11.4%	6.7%	18.1%
Itawamba	5	474	461	43	23	66	9.3%	5.0%	14.3%
Jackson	16	1357	1315	175	45	220	13.3%	3.4%	16.7%
Jasper	2	200	193	28	11	39	14.5%	5.7%	20.2%
Jefferson	1	72	71	11	7	18	15.5%	9.9%	25.4%
Jones	10	1384	1360	156	63	219	11.5%	4.6%	16.1%
Kemper	2	62	61	4	5	9	6.6%	8.2%	14.8%
Lafayette	3	774	764	101	28	129	13.2%	3.7%	16.9%
Lamar	7	1262	1237	138	57	195	11.2%	4.6%	15.8%
Lauderdale	12	1222	1204	145	43	188	12.0%	3.6%	15.6%
Lawrence	3	149	139	10	6	16	7.2%	4.3%	11.5%
Leake	3	292	291	26	5	31	8.9%	1.7%	10.7%
Lee	10	1824	1808	237	80	317	13.1%	4.4%	17.5%

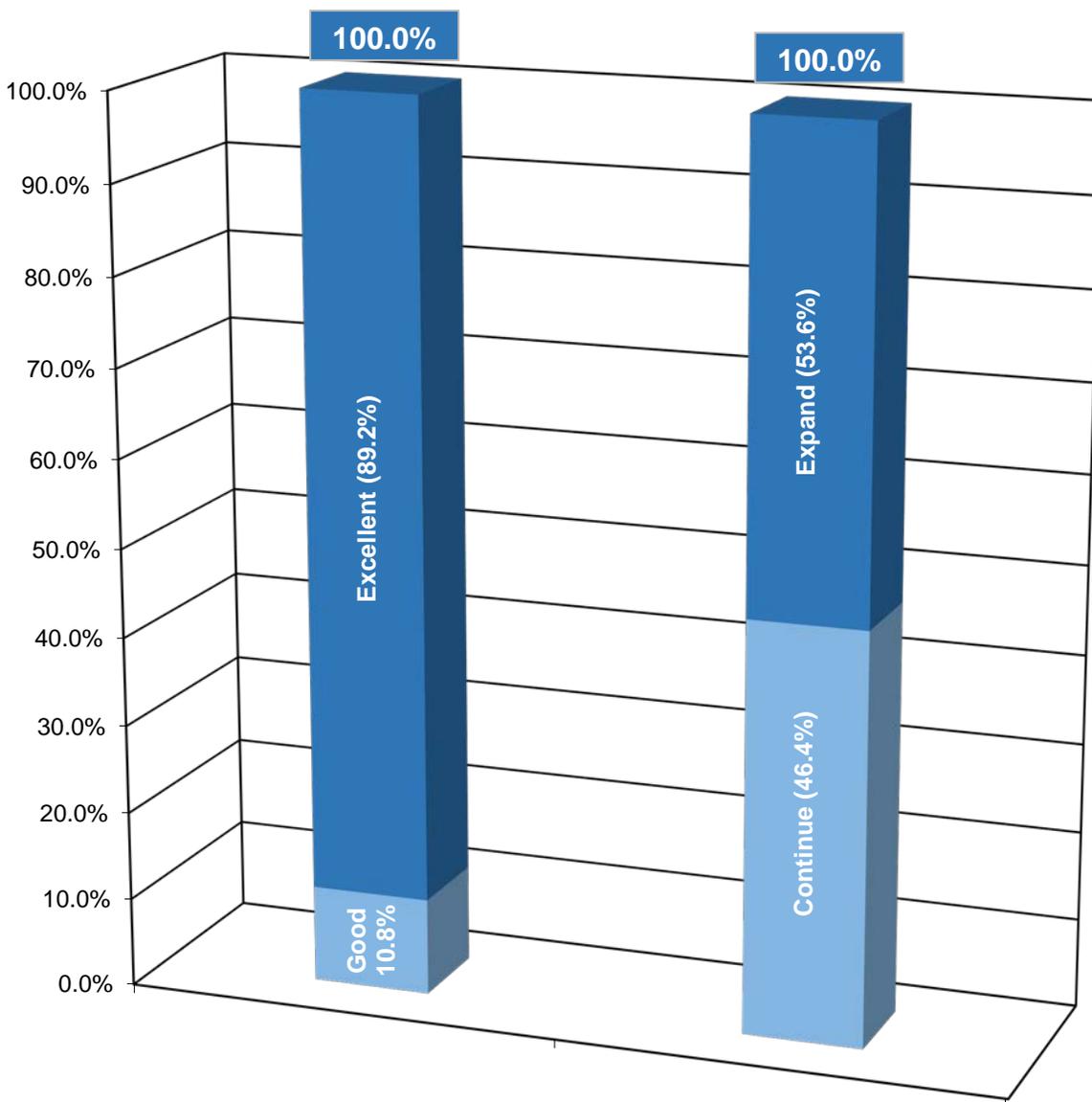
County	Locs	#Scrnd	#Analyzed	Poss Sig	Sig	Total PS+Sig	%Poss Sig	% Sig	% PS+Sig
Leflore	8	941	897	140	94	234	15.6%	10.5%	26.1%
Lincoln	5	401	387	36	13	49	9.3%	3.4%	12.7%
Lowndes	6	539	527	64	9	73	12.1%	1.7%	13.9%
Madison	11	1097	1081	96	40	136	8.9%	3.7%	12.6%
Marion	2	240	231	21	5	26	9.1%	2.2%	11.3%
Marshall	1	75	74	11	5	16	14.9%	6.8%	21.6%
Monroe	4	264	260	23	8	31	8.8%	3.1%	11.9%
Montgomery	1	75	70	12	6	18	17.1%	8.6%	25.7%
Neshoba	2	255	253	18	7	25	7.1%	2.8%	9.9%
Newton	3	258	251	19	12	31	7.6%	4.8%	12.4%
Noxubee	1	117	105	12	3	15	11.4%	2.9%	14.3%
Oktibbeha	1	394	378	32	2	34	8.5%	0.5%	9.0%
Panola	3	111	111	21	11	32	18.9%	9.9%	28.8%
Pearl River	2	564	544	45	19	64	8.3%	3.5%	11.8%
Perry	3	190	190	16	5	21	8.4%	2.6%	11.1%
Pike	5	424	413	31	8	39	7.5%	1.9%	9.4%
Pontotoc	1	176	174	22	11	33	12.6%	6.3%	19.0%
Prentiss	7	354	351	45	18	63	12.8%	5.1%	17.9%
Quitman	1	50	49	8	3	11	16.3%	6.1%	22.4%
Rankin	11	1704	1688	167	49	216	9.9%	2.9%	12.8%
Scott	5	886	870	110	38	148	12.6%	4.4%	17.0%
Simpson	3	305	300	39	2	41	13.0%	0.7%	13.7%
Smith	3	404	397	44	11	55	11.1%	2.8%	13.9%
Stone	2	278	267	32	14	46	12.0%	5.2%	17.2%
Sunflower	12	512	484	96	34	130	19.8%	7.0%	26.9%
Tate	3	205	204	26	10	36	12.7%	4.9%	17.6%
Tippah	5	255	252	37	10	47	14.7%	4.0%	18.7%
Tishomingo	4	490	485	54	37	91	11.1%	7.6%	18.8%
Tunica	3	127	124	18	6	24	14.5%	4.8%	19.4%
Union	5	723	713	78	41	119	10.9%	5.8%	16.7%
Walthall	2	124	122	9	4	13	7.4%	3.3%	10.7%
Warren	7	398	383	43	6	49	11.2%	1.6%	12.8%
Washington	8	1083	1045	159	69	228	15.2%	6.6%	21.8%
Wayne	5	211	207	13	5	18	6.3%	2.4%	8.7%
Webster	2	124	119	11	5	16	9.2%	4.2%	13.4%
Yalobusha	3	109	102	14	5	19	13.7%	4.9%	18.6%
Yazoo	1	15	15	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
TOTALS	350	34,716	33,905	4,022	1,455	5,477	11.9%	4.3%	16.2%

School Survey Responses (Key Questions)

Overall, how would you rate this year's eye screening program?

(Choices: Needs improvement, Fair, Good, Excellent)

Do you think this program should be discontinued, continued, or expanded to other grades?



See the next two pages for complete survey results.

Complete Survey Responses

In normal times, surveys are sent beginning mid-March to all schools that were not surveyed earlier in the year. Typically, 200 to 225 survey responses are completed and returned by the schools. That process was cut short this year with the school closures in mid-March, with notably fewer surveys sent and returned. The responses are summarized below. All returned survey forms are available for review upon request.

Total Surveys Returned = 84 (49 by mail, 35 online)

Note: Under "Detail" below, for each question the first line is the number of responses, and the second line is its % of that question's responses.

Screening Program in General

	SUMMARY		DETAIL			
	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT + FAIR	GOOD + EXCELLENT	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	FAIR	GOOD	EXCLNT
1) How would you rate the pre-screening information and instructions provided by VRC describing the school's preparations needed for the screening?	0.0%	100.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	15 17.9%	69 82.1%
2) For the actual screening at this school, how would you rate the general organization and coordination of the screening process?	1.2%	98.8%	0 0.0%	1 1.2%	14 16.7%	69 82.1%
3) How would you rate the VRC screener for courtesy and professionalism?	0.0%	100.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	8 9.5%	76 90.5%
4) When returned, were the screening results easy to understand?	1.2%	98.8%	0 0.0%	1 1.2%	13 15.5%	70 83.3%
5) Overall , how would you rate the concept of this year's eye screening program?	0.0%	100.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	9 10.8%	74 89.2%
6) On-going program : Ignoring financial considerations, would you like to see this program continued, expanded to more students, or not continued?	DISCONTINUE 0.0%	CONTINUE + EXPAND 100.0%		DISC 0 0.0%	CONT 39 46.4%	EXPAND 45 53.6%

7) Comments

The survey asked for any comments, positive or otherwise, about the program. 39 schools (46.4%) included one. Many of these are in the next section, and all are available for review upon request.

Survey Questions regarding... Follow-Up for Children with Possible Problems

- 8) Is there someone in the school or school system responsible for follow-up to see if children with possible problems have an examination by an eye doctor?

Yes:	61 responses	77.2%
No:	18 responses	22.8%

- 9) What resources have been or will be used to provide eye examination or treatment for needy students? (check all that apply): 157 total responses

Sight Savers America.....	54 responses	34.4%
Medicaid.....	50 responses	31.8%
School / nurse resources.....	41 responses	26.1%
Local health department.....	11 responses	7.0%
Local doctors.....	30 responses	19.1%
Lions Club.....	25 responses	15.9%
Private donations (svcs or funds)....	19 responses	12.1%
Other sources.....	3 responses	1.9%

- 10) What percentage of the students with indications of a possible problem do you feel have been or will be taken to see an eye doctor? (A list of those students was provided with the survey.)

77 responses	61.1% average
	32.5% had responses of 80% or higher (11.7% had 100%)

- 11) Do you know of any students who have tried but not been able to obtain examination or treatment by an eye doctor through any known source?

Yes:	2 responses	2.5%
No:	77 responses	97.5%

Toll free numbers for assistance from Sight Savers America and VRC were provided to all schools. The schools responding "yes" have been contacted to help assure examination by an eye doctor and appropriate follow-up for these young students.

Some Comments from the Schools...

The comments here were taken directly from the schools' survey responses. Most are complete, with a few excerpted from a longer comment. All original survey forms are available for review.

I cannot think of a better service for our students! I truly appreciate this wonderful program and those who are responsible for implementing it in our schools.

ref MISS5691 Simpson County

This screening is wonderful. It benefits our students each year!

ref MISS5571 Lee County

Excellent program! Thank you for all you do for our students and their families to help them be successful in school, and in life, by detecting their possible vision problems early and addressing them.

ref MISS6446 Lowndes County

Everything was great! The only thing I would change is possibly adding Third Grade to be screened since this is the first year they have to pass a state reading test.

ref MISS5070 Harrison County

Our school loves this invaluable service and is so appreciative of VRC. Please keep up the great work!

ref MISS5847 Wayne County

This program is of tremendous value to Mississippi students. It finds treatable vision problems that would otherwise be missed.

ref MISS5635 Harrison County

This program has been a great asset for our students.

ref MISS5715 Greene County

I would love to be able to screen more than just kindergarten students through this program.

ref MISS6309 Union County

The screening results identified some vision problems that otherwise would not have been found because they "passed" our traditional chart exam. We really enjoyed the process and we are looking forward to working with VRC next school year!

ref MISS5302 Clarke County

This is a good program that makes sure parents know about their child's vision needs.

ref MISS5633 Lamar County

Thank you for being flexible, on time and starting as early as needed.

ref MISS5093 Madison County

Our screener was absolutely amazing. She makes it a wonderful experience. She relates wonderfully with the students and is a joy to work with. Thank you for this service.

ref MISS6516 Jackson County

I would like to see all Pre-K screened along with K.

ref MISS6061 Lafayette County

I would love to see this expand to screen more students, especially new students that enter the school in higher grades.

ref MISS6179 Rankin County

The screener was prompt and knowledgeable.

ref MISS5144 Tunica County

We are thankful for this program!

ref MISS5900 Tate County

I would love to be able to screen another grade. Maybe 4th Grade.

ref MISS5158 Madison County

As always we appreciate all that you and your program do. Look forward to this coming school year.

ref MISS5227 Sunflower County

The screener was excellent. I would love to have more ages screened in the future, if funding is provided.

ref MISS5049 Lincoln County

I think it would be great if these screenings could be offered to Middle School and maybe High School students.

ref MISS5614 Lee County

Very organized and beneficial program. Thank you!

ref MISS5715 Greene County

No complaints!

ref MISS5160 Benton County

It is awesome for VRC to come to the school with all of the equipment needed to provide vision screenings for our students. The results help make sure the students identified by it get the care they need.

ref MISS5501 Lauderdale County

Great program!

ref MISS5656 Smith County

We appreciate the help for our students!

ref MISS5882 Warren County

The screening results were very helpful, with the information needed to help guide the next step for our students' vision care. Great all around experience! Loved our screener!

ref MISS5625 Union County

We have students who definitely have benefited through the help of the Mississippi Eye Screening Program. We have been pleased with it, and the folks at Vision Research have been very professional and easy to work with.

ref MISS5714 Greene County

This program is great for underprivileged schools and populations.

ref MISS5885 Lauderdale County

This is an awesome program.

ref MISS4901 Itawamba County

Very good program!

ref MISS5159 Benton County

Thank you for coming each year!

ref MISS4930 Alcorn County

This is a wonderful screening program. It is helpful each year to our students and their parents.

ref MISS5950 Lee County

I love this program. I would not change anything about it.

ref MISS6180 Harrison County



A Few of the Children Helped by This Year's Program

In this year's Mississippi Eye Screening Program, over 5,000 children were identified with possible problems.

When the counts get into the thousands, they often become "just numbers," but each of these is someone's child, and someone's student. Without good vision, each of these children would be at an obvious disadvantage in the classroom, and in life.

The stories of just a few of the children who benefited from this year's program are included on the following pages.

The photos bordering this page show some of the hundreds of children whose stories have been featured in prior reports.

Elijah



Elijah's screening image.

From the moment you first see Elijah, you can tell he's got style and charisma. Right now, Elijah has plans to be a star on his own YouTube channel, but according to his dad, his career aspirations change frequently. This past year, Elijah was selected for two recognitions of note, the "Peacemaker" award from his teacher and "Super Jag" for the school, which is a pretty big deal. There is no doubt Elijah will be great at whatever profession he chooses.

Elijah also did well in school this past year. Other than a little difficulty with reading, Elijah's dad didn't have any reason to suspect his son might have a possible vision problem. However, the results from Elijah's screening showed the indications of hyperopia (farsightedness) in both eyes, with more indicated in the left eye than in the right. A difference such as this in the two eyes can indicate or lead to amblyopia. An appointment with the eye doctor was arranged.

After the examination, the doctor confirmed the screening indications and prescribed glasses. In addition, the doctor recommended patching Elijah's stronger eye for two hours daily to help strengthen his weaker eye. Elijah picked out some very stylish frames. We think he looks great in them!

With his improved sight, Elijah has made great improvements with his school work. His father states, "He's reading more easily and has improved markedly from B-level to D-level books."



Taylor



Taylor's screening image.

The Mississippi Eye Screening Program is provided to all public schools throughout the state. One of its key goals is to help assure that children are able to see well in the classroom. Examination by an eye doctor is recommended for all children identified with possible problems.

Taylor's vision screening at school showed the indications of hyperopia (farsightedness). For someone who is farsighted, objects at a distance can typically be seen clearly, while near objects (such as books and desktop materials) may be blurry, often resulting in trouble with schoolwork.

When Taylor's mom learned of the screening results, she was not completely surprised. Several of Taylor's family members wear glasses and her mom had noticed that Taylor appeared to have a "lazy eye." An appointment with an eye doctor was promptly arranged.

After the examination, the doctor confirmed the screening indications and prescribed glasses. It took a little while for Taylor to adjust to wearing her new glasses, but she realizes they make her vision much better and now she prefers to wear them all the time.

Taylor loves going to school. She enjoys doing her homework assignments and getting to read books all day long. When asked what her favorite subject in school is, Taylor responded, "My whole Kindergarten day is my favorite." Outside of school, Taylor is a Daisy in the Girl Scouts and has a great time with her troop.

Taylor is looking forward to a great summer. She's hoping for several trips to the beach and water park.

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Jesse



Jesse's screening image.

The Mississippi Eye Screening Program screens children for a wide range of problem indications including refractive (focusing) errors such as hyperopia (farsightedness), myopia (nearsightedness), astigmatisms, and differences between the focusing ability of the two eyes known as anisometropia. It also screens for the indications of several other categories of problems, such as strabismus (alignment errors), opacities (such as cataracts), and various eye abnormalities that can be indicators for other conditions.

Jesse's vision screening indicated a possible alignment problem, with his right eye appearing to turn inward. This condition is known as esotropia. People often think of alignment problems as strictly cosmetic issues, but misaligned eyes can impact binocular vision and depth perception. They can lead to amblyopia and permanent vision impairment if not corrected at an early age.

After a visit to the eye doctor and a full examination, the indications from the screening at school were confirmed and glasses were prescribed.

Jesse aspires to be a police officer one day, but for now he enjoys going to school, riding his bike, and playing softball and baseball.

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Kynlee



Kynlee's screening image.

As with the parents of many of the children in the vision screening program each year, Kynlee's mom was completely unaware that her daughter was having issues with her sight. Kynlee did not display any signs of a problem, nor did she complain of headaches or trouble seeing her schoolwork.

However, Kynlee's screening showed the indications of hyperopia (farsightedness) in both eyes, with more indicated in the right eye than the left. A difference such as this in the focusing power of the two eyes is known as anisometropia and it can indicate or lead to amblyopia (commonly called "lazy eye"). Kynlee's mom promptly scheduled an appointment with an eye doctor. After the examination, the screening results were confirmed and glasses were prescribed for Kynlee to wear full time.

Prior to the screening Kynlee did fairly well in school. Her favorite subject is math, but she struggled with letters and sight words. As a result her language arts grade slipped below her other grades. With her new glasses, Kynlee has made a tremendous improvement with her language skills and finished out the school year on the A-B honor roll.

Kynlee is very active and loves to use her imagination. Getting to play school is one of her favorite pastimes and she hopes to one day become a teacher. Kynlee also stays on the go with dance and gymnastics lessons. This fall she looks forward to becoming a cheerleader. This summer Kynlee has plans for lots of swimming and she is looking forward to beach time with her family on their annual vacation to Orange Beach. Have a great summer, Kynlee!



Malachi



Malachi's screening image.

examination, the doctor confirmed the results from the screening and provided a new prescription for the lenses. Since receiving his new glasses, Malachi has made great improvements with his schoolwork. His mom is grateful for finally having a proper prescription for his vision problem, and she also thankfully noted that his previous attention and behavioral troubles are now in check.

Malachi hopes to one day become a firefighter or a teacher but until then he is enjoying being a kid. This summer he is looking forward to lots of swimming and fishing.

Note: As described on the first page of this Final Report, all of the thousands of young students identified with a possible problem by the Mississippi Eye Screening Program are referred to Sight Savers America for comprehensive case-managed follow-up, helping assure that every child receives the care and treatment needed. Sight Savers has been a fundamental component of the program for over a decade, as the final outcome below helps show.

Imagine that you've just started Kindergarten. Getting off to a good start in school can be difficult in itself, but add in a few other factors: You can't see your teacher clearly, and worse, you can't see what is on the board clearly. Now try to do well, or at least keep up. That's what it was like for Malachi earlier this school year.

Well before the vision screening at school, Malachi's mother knew her son had an eye problem. He was born prematurely and despite his pediatrician saying he would be fine, she always worried about the fact that her son never seemed to look at her. She made appointments with several eye doctors over the years and each appointment resulted in a change to his lenses. However, the glasses didn't seem to help much and Malachi's school work was suffering.

Malachi's vision screening results showed indications of significant myopia (nearsightedness). For a child that is nearsighted, close work such as reading, writing, and drawing can be seen clearly, but objects at a distance such as the board may be blurry, resulting in difficulty keeping up in the classroom.

Sight Savers reviewed the record and helped make an appointment with a recommended eye doctor. After the



Alexis



Alexis's screening image.

Good vision is an integral part of a child's learning and social development. Those who cannot see well often fall behind. Unfortunately, that can result in a long-term cascade of classroom and social problems that can follow them into early adulthood and beyond.

When Alexis's mom received the results from the eye screening at school, she was not surprised to learn her daughter could have a vision problem because eye problems run in Alexis's family. Her mom had also noticed that Alexis would often hold her lesson paperwork close to her face to see it more clearly.

The screening results showed Alexis had indications of hyperopia (farsightedness) in both eyes. Her mom promptly arranged for an appointment with an eye doctor. After Alexis received a full vision exam at the doctor's office, she was given a prescription for glasses.

Since receiving her new glasses, Alexis quickly adjusted to wearing them and likes how they have improved her vision. She enjoys going to school and learning new things every day. This summer she plans to include a little bit of study time every day just to keep in the swing of things before school returns. She also plans to make time for one of her favorite activities, jumping on the trampoline.



Benson



Benson's screening image.

Benson's results from the vision screening at school indicated he had a possible astigmatism in his left eye, while his right eye appeared to be normal. An astigmatism is a focusing problem that can result in blurry vision at both near and far distances. Unlike nearsightedness or farsightedness, objects at any distance can be out of focus. As you can imagine, this can hinder the ability to read, see the board, and keep up in the classroom.

The difference in the focusing ability of the two eyes is a condition called anisometropia, and it is important to find early because it can indicate or lead to amblyopia.

Prior to receiving the screening results from school, Benson's mom said that her son had difficulty with his homework assignments each night, but she just assumed he didn't retain knowledge as well as her other children. She had no idea the difficulty was due to a vision problem.

When the screening results came home, she promptly arranged for Benson to visit the eye doctor. The doctor confirmed the screening results and Benson was given a prescription for glasses.

After getting his new glasses, his mother noticed an immediate improvement with his schoolwork. Now that he can see more clearly, Benson's reading and writing have improved significantly. He is also working through his homework assignments much more easily each day.

Benson is a bit of a prankster. He enjoys playing jokes on his family and friends and can make light of any situation. Benson has one brother and one sister. His favorite foods include crab legs, yogurt, and donuts. When he grows up, Benson has plans to become a professional flame thrower, but this summer you'll find him playing outside and swimming to his heart's content. Hope your summer is long and enjoyable, Benson!



Chaniyah



Chaniyah's screening image.

Chaniyah was one of the thousands of children with a problem no one suspected. This is more the rule than the exception because children with vision problems rarely know it. They assume the way they see is "normal" because it's the only way they've ever seen. Parents and teachers often don't suspect a problem either. A child may be considered clumsy or slow, for example, when the real problem is that they cannot see clearly.

Vision problems have a significant impact on both the child's educational and social development, which helps explain why the early detection of eye problems in children is so important.

After the Mississippi Eye Screening Program visited Chaniyah's school, the screening results showed indications of astigmatism in both eyes. After examination by an eye doctor, the screening results were confirmed and glasses were prescribed. Chaniyah's new glasses have served her very well. She enjoys all of her subjects in school and has made the Superintendent's List several times.

Chaniyah has three sisters and one brother she enjoys hanging out with, but she likes spending time with her grandmother the most. Chaniyah also enjoys riding her bike and playing games, and she is looking forward to spending a lot of time at the pool this summer.



Josie



Josie's screening image.

Prior to the vision screening at school, Josie's mom recalls her daughter often complaining of severe headaches. Occasionally the headaches would be so intense that Josie would become sick to her stomach. Since Josie was doing well in school, her mother didn't suspect the headaches could be due to a vision problem. When the results from the school vision screening indicating a possible problem were sent home, her mom realized that could be the cause of Josie's struggles. She immediately scheduled an appointment with an eye doctor.

The results from the screening showed Josie had the indications of hyperopia (farsightedness) in both eyes, with her left eye appearing to be somewhat weaker than her right eye. A difference such as this in the focusing power of the two eyes is known as anisometropia. It can have serious consequences because it can impede the brain's ability to merge the images from both eyes to create stereoscopic vision and depth perception. When the brain cannot merge the images, it may gradually shut down the weaker eye. If this condition continues past typically age six or seven, it can result in permanent vision impairment in the weaker eye. This is called amblyopia, commonly referred to as "lazy eye," and it is the leading cause of preventable vision loss in children.

After a full examination, Josie's eye doctor confirmed the screening indications, and glasses were prescribed. It took a week or so for Josie to adjust to her new glasses, but when she became accustomed to wearing them she realized how much better they help her see.

Josie enjoys school, and loves art lessons the most. She stays very active with gymnastics and Girl Scouts and hopes to one day become a veterinarian. She also enjoys spending time with her grandparents and siblings, and playing hide and seek with her dad.



Jeremy



Jeremy's screening image.

No one in Jeremy's family wears glasses, and they hadn't noticed him having any issues in or out of school. In fact, Jeremy had been on the principal's Excellence List since Pre-Kindergarten, with excellent grades in all subjects. His school screening results, however, showed the indications of hyperopia (farsightedness). When a person is farsighted, they can see things clearly at a distance, while close objects (books, desk and up-close work) may appear blurry.

After receiving the results, Jeremy's grandmother scheduled a visit with the eye doctor. The screening results were confirmed and glasses were prescribed. Jeremy is getting along nicely with his new glasses and continues to do very well in school. He is attentive with all of his lessons, but enjoys reading and math the most. This year he took home a perfect attendance award, a social intelligence award, a principal's excellence award and trophy, and a character award for grit. That will serve him well when he becomes the firefighter he aspires to be some day.

Jeremy enjoys spending time with his siblings and great grandmother and learning to bake with his uncle. This summer Jeremy is looking forward to jumping in bouncy houses and riding his bike. He plans to keep up his reading as well.



Jordyn



Jordyn's screening image.

Even though Jordyn's sister and several other family members wear glasses, her mom had not suspected Jordyn might also have a vision problem. Jordyn never complained of not being able to see well. Most children don't because the world has always appeared the way they see it. That is "normal" to them.

Jordyn's vision screening at school showed the indications of hyperopia (farsightedness) in both eyes, with her left eye appearing to be somewhat weaker than her right eye. This difference between the two eyes is a condition known as anisometropia, and it can indicate or lead to amblyopia (commonly referred to as "lazy eye"). Jordyn's mom promptly scheduled an appointment with an eye doctor to have a complete eye exam.

After completing the examination, Jordyn's eye doctor confirmed the indications from the screening and prescribed glasses to treat the problem. Jordyn has adjusted well to her new glasses and is delighted at how much better she can see with them. Her mom reports the glasses have made a big difference for her daughter and she's doing very well in school. She was awarded Jaguar of the Month at school and later was awarded the Jaguar Medal for the school year.

When Jordyn is not in school she enjoys taking hip-hop, stage art, tap, and gymnastics classes. She also enjoys spending time with her family and going to church.



Joseph



Joseph's screening image.

Joseph's mom said that, even before the screening at school, "We knew something might be wrong because of the way he watched television and played video games. He wanted to be as close as possible to the screen. We often had to remind and reprimand him for being too close." So it was no surprise to Joseph's mom when she received the vision screening results from school that indicated he had a possible problem. She quickly called and scheduled an appointment with an eye doctor.

Joseph's vision screening indicated a possible alignment problem, with his right eye appearing to turn inward. Misaligned eyes can impact binocular vision and depth perception, and they can lead to amblyopia and permanent vision impairment in the same way focusing differences between the two eyes can, if not corrected at an early age.

After a visit to the eye doctor and a full examination, the indications from the screening at school were confirmed and glasses were prescribed. Since receiving his new glasses, Joseph has done well in school, receiving both Honor Roll and Accelerated Reader awards.

Joseph aspires to one day become a chef or a professional wrestler, but for now he's happy spending time with his family and getting to use that creative mind of his to scheme and dream. This summer Joseph is looking most forward to sleeping in every morning and swimming as much as possible.



Odds and Ends

The 2019-20 Mississippi Eye Screening Program was a significant statewide undertaking, with screenings provided for more than 34,000 students in 350 schools throughout Mississippi.

The on-site screenings at each school are the most visible part of this program, but the other tasks needed to organize and conduct the program, including training, scheduling, logistics, data entry, computer processing, and results reporting are major efforts. Here are just a few of the “behind the scenes” numbers from this year’s program:

- ◆ VRC screeners drove over 50,000 miles visiting the schools to perform the screenings.
- ◆ Over 50,000 screening images were taken and analyzed.
- ◆ Over 1,200 UPS shipments were made for pre-screening forms, screening results, screening systems and supplies, and screening report packages.
- ◆ Over 2.1 million characters of data were keyed for the school, student and results files.
- ◆ Over 135,000 sheets of paper were printed for the individual, school and combined results packages and related forms.

As in prior years, a lot has gone into this year’s program. Each year, the comments from grateful parents, teachers, school nurses and administrators help truly personalize the importance of the program.

Because of the much-appreciated efforts of all who worked on this year’s program, over 5,000 young students were identified with possible problems that could affect their classroom performance and personal development. Of these, over 1,800 children had possible problems that could cause *permanent* loss of vision if not detected and corrected early enough.

Year after year, the biggest reward for all who have supported this program comes from the thousands of children who have been helped. They will benefit from the results throughout their education, and throughout their life.



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