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MEMORANDUM

To: Superintendents, Principals and Independent School Headmasters, and School Nurses

From: Mark Levine, M.D., Commissioner, Department of Health 
Daniel M. French, Ed.D., Secretary, Agency of Education 

Date: August 1, 2019

Subject: Compliance with Vermont's School Screening Law and Regulations

Vision and [hearing screenings](#) are an important way to make sure that students can access the academic material presented to them in a school setting. Ensuring students receive these screenings takes a collaboration between the school nurse, the family and the medical home. This memo is informing you of updates to the current hearing screening requirements, in compliance with state law.

In June of 2019, the School Nurse Advisory Committee approved the recommendation to add hearing screenings for adolescents in grades 7, 9, and 12. School nurses already provide vision screening for these students. The hearing screening is a brief pass-fail test that can be done at the same time. Guidance and the full table of required screenings can be found in the Screening Section #26 of the [Standards of Practice: School Health Services Manual](#).

School districts and primary care providers should collaborate to conduct periodic hearing and vision screening of school-aged children pursuant to research-based guidelines developed by the Commissioner of Health in consultation with the Secretary of Education. [[16 V.S.A §1422 Testing Sight and Hearing](#)] These recommendations are based on the [American Academy of Pediatrics, Bright Futures: Guidelines for Health Supervision of Infants, Children, and Adolescents \(4th ed.\)](#).

For more information about school screenings for pre-kindergarten and K–12 students, visit the [Health Department's web page](#). If you have questions, please call the Health Department at 802-863-7333 or email: State School Nurse Consultant at sharonlee.trefry@vermont.gov.