



# Mobile County PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Terrence S. Mixon, Sr., Assistant Superintendent  
Division of Student Support Services  
Curtess Belson, Attendance Supervisor  
Attendance Department Phone: 221-4276  
Barbara Smith, MSN, RN, Lead Nurse  
Pamela Smith, MSN, RN, Lead Nurse  
Health Services Department  
Phone: (251) 221-4292 Fax: (251) 221-5390

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P. O. Box 180069 • Mobile, AL 36618 • [www.mcpss.com](http://www.mcpss.com)

Superintendent Chresal D. Threadgill

## **Vision Research Parent Information**

Each school year, MCPSS conducts grade level vision screenings for students in Kindergarten, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> grades through Vision Research Corporation. This screening is non-invasive and involves taking a photograph of the student's eyes in a darkened room. Whole classes are screened together with a teacher or other adult present, as well as the Vision Research screener. Results are returned to parents via letter within a few weeks. If problems are noted, recommendations are attached to the screening results as well as resources for assistance with eye appointments and glasses if needed. A consent form and information sheet will be sent home with your student prior to the screening. Please read and complete this form and return it by the date indicated.

**Please note: This program is an OPT-OUT program. Therefore, if a "NO" response is not received from the parent, all students in the grade level will be screened.**

# In-School Vision Screening

As much as 80% of early learning is obtained visually. A child who cannot see well is at an obvious disadvantage in the classroom. One of every ten or so school-age children has a vision problem, but parents usually don't suspect it. That is why this vision screening is being done at school.

The test uses an advanced screening system, developed and patented by NASA. The system is based on a process called "photorefraction." It takes a special color image of the child's eyes that can then be analyzed for a wide range of problems.

From your child's point of view, the screening is as simple and as fast as having a photo taken. It requires no responses, and no eye drops are used.

Many eye problems can be found this way, such as nearsightedness, farsightedness, problems leading to lazy eye, eye alignment problems and cataracts. If your child has glasses, the screening can help confirm that the prescription is current.

A report detailing the results will be sent to the school a few weeks after the screening, along with a recommendation for examination by an eye care professional if the indications of possible problems are found.

## Goals

- *Identify the children who need to be seen by an eye care professional.*
- *Minimize academic and other problems resulting from poor vision.*

### What if a possible problem is detected?

The child should be seen by an eye doctor of your choice for examination. The eye doctor will make a diagnosis and treatment recommendation. You may choose your own eye doctor, or your primary physician can make a referral.

**Please fill out the attached Student Form completely and return it to your child's teacher.**

### There is no charge for this screening.

It is provided at no cost to all public schools through the state Department of Education and is conducted by Vision Research Corporation. Questions regarding the screening process or results should be directed to Vision Research at the phone number or website below.

Note: This program is based on a process that is screening in nature, not diagnostic. Screening is intended to identify, with a reasonably high probability, children with a wide range of eye problems who should seek the services of an eye care professional for examination and diagnosis. As with any screening process, there is no assurance that all problems will be detected. Also, there are eye problems that are not normally detected by this screening process, including diseases affecting the retina and optic nerve, glaucoma, some astigmatisms and color blindness.

**No screening process is a substitute for full examination by an eye care professional.**

Vision Research

**Vision Research Corporation**  
**(800) 942-0025**

For more information...  
[www.vision-research.com](http://www.vision-research.com)

**Please complete Student Eye Screening Form**  
**(other side) →**