

Eye See...Eye Learn!

A Teacher's Guide to Mitigating Perceived Barriers

Who is coordinating the Eye See...Eye Learn pilot program?

The Saskatchewan Association of Optometrists (SAO) will manage the pilot in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education.

What is the time frame for the Eye See...Eye Learn pilot program?

The deadline to return the Classroom Parent/Guardian Consent Forms and the Classroom Tracking Sheet is December 15, 2009.

How will we ensure the statistics are confidential?

Parents will be asked to provide permission for their child to participate in the pilot. The Eye See...Eye Learn program has been designed to comply with the Health Information Protection Act and ensures the child's name on the research copy is non-traceable.

What about transportation and student absenteeism while a child obtains an eye examination?

In Saskatchewan there are over 122 licensed optometrists who are committed to the Eye See...Eye Learn Program. Hours of service vary with offices located in 60 communities across the province with many offices open during extended hours. An eye examination should be no less important than an appointment with a family doctor or the dentist. An hour appointment may eliminate a lifetime of impaired learning.

What happens if a child needs glasses?

Frame wear manufacturers produce affordable quality children's eyewear including warranty coverage. Provincial assistance benefits exist for low income families and many employers provide an eye wear benefit plan. Optometric offices provide payment plans and the local Lions Clubs often fund the purchase of glasses for those children without financial resources. Parents/guardians and teachers should encourage the wearing of glasses if they have been prescribed.

Does a child need to know how to read to have an eye examination?

Knowing how to read is not necessary. Optometrists are trained to conduct eye examinations on any age of a child, including infants. In fact, parents/guardians are encouraged to obtain an eye examination for babies as early as six months old. Eye examinations are not painful.

What is the cost of an eye exam?

The Ministry of Health covers the cost of an annual eye exam for all Saskatchewan children under the age of 18.

Is an appointment required for an eye exam?

Similar to a dentist or a medical practitioner, making an appointment is necessary. The optometrists' office staff will assist in booking a time that is convenient for everyone. To locate an optometrist consult the yellow pages of your local directory, visit www.optometrists.sk.ca or call the Saskatchewan Association of Optometrists at 1.877.660.3937 to find an optometrist near you.