

**Vision Examinations:** Public Act 95-671, effective **January 1, 2008**, requires that all children enrolling in kindergarten in a public, private or parochial school and any student enrolling for the first time in a public, private or parochial school shall have an eye examination.

- Each such child is to present proof of having been examined by a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches or a licensed optometrist within the previous year before **October 15** of the school year. If the child fails to present proof by October 15, the school may hold the child's report card until either (a) the child presents proof of a completed eye examination or (ii) the child presents proof that any eye examination will take place within 60 days after October 15.
- This requirement may be waived for children who show an undue burden or a lack of access to a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches who provides eye examinations or to a licensed optometrist. Moreover, parents or legal guardians who object to eye examinations on religious grounds shall not be required to submit their children to the examination if such parents or legal guardians present to the appropriate local school authority a signed statement of objection, detailing the grounds for the objection.
- Each public, private and parochial school is required to give notice of this eye examination requirement to the parents and guardians of students. Every school shall report to the State Board of Education by **June 30** the number of children who have received the required eye examination, indicating, of those who have not received the required eye examination, the number of children who are exempt from the eye examination on religious grounds, the number of children who have received a waiver, and the total number of children in noncompliance with the eye examination requirement.
- It is our understanding that IDPH expects very shortly to issue an emergency rule that will further define the documentation required as proof of having received an eye examination, the criteria for a child to receive a waiver, and the type of notice schools must provide to parents and guardians of students.
- Notwithstanding the forthcoming rule, ISBE is attaching a proof of examination and a waiver form that can be used for this coming school year.
- A copy of the State of Illinois Eye Examination Report can be accessed at:  
[http://www.isbe.net/pdf/eye\\_exam\\_form\\_IOA.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/pdf/eye_exam_form_IOA.pdf)
- A copy of the Eye Examination Waiver can be accessed at:  
[http://www.isbe.net/pdf/eye\\_exam\\_waiver.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/pdf/eye_exam_waiver.pdf).