

Health Partners of Western Ohio

Vision Outreach: Guide to Services

OVERVIEW

Vision Outreach is a school-based mobile program that serves northwest Ohio. The program is focused on improving students' grades and increasing engagement by helping children see. Once a year or every other year, the vision team visits participating schools to provide comprehensive eye exams and glasses to students who need them.

The vision teams are made up of two to three people: a licensed optician, optometrist, and optometric technician. This team manages the schedule and treatment of their patients.

PATIENT SIGN UP

Students sign up for services by having their parent or guardian fill out a consent form and returning it to the designated outreach school contact. There are also links and QR codes to a digital consent form available. The same consent form is used by the Dental Outreach program as well.

The team collects the consent forms and keeps track of participants.

Mobile vision care is not available to preschoolers or children less than five years old due to communication barriers. Exceptions may be made for special circumstances.

SCHEDULE

Each school is given a set number of days for the team to see patients. The vision outreach visit is used for the comprehensive eye exam and choosing glasses frames. The team can typically see about 10-15 students per day, depending on the needs of the students and the type of team in the area. These days go quickly, and students are out of class for about 20 -40 minutes.

About 2-3 weeks after the exam day, the optician will return to the school and dispense glasses to the students. If a student is absent on this date, the glasses will be left in the care of the school nurse.

If snow days or staffing issues cause your school to lose scheduled days, the vision team will do everything in their power to schedule makeup days.

Priority List: Not every student who signs up for vision outreach is guaranteed treatment each year. While the ocular health of each student is important, the outreach program recognizes that some situations can make a student's participation more urgent. For this reason, the nurse can give the vision team a "priority list" of students

two weeks before the outreach begins. These will be the students the team sees first, assuming they have turned in consent forms. Typically, these are students who have known eyesight issues, IEPs to fulfill, behavioral challenges, or have failed the school's vision screenings.

Vision Screenings: HPWO vision outreach provides comprehensive vision exams and returns a paper to the school nurse outlining the results of each student seen. These exams technically fulfill a school's vision screening. However, the vision outreach team will not see all of the students at your school. It is highly suggested to perform vision screenings before the vision team arrives to assist the team with prioritizing which students receive treatment first. If vision screenings are not completed in advance, it is recommended to use the previous year's vision screening results.

Future Scheduling: Vision Outreach needs to be scheduled at least 1 year past the last date we are at the school. This can make annual scheduling difficult. Each year, your school's vision outreach dates will be later in the year than before. Eventually, vision outreach will need to skip a year and put your school at the beginning of the next year. Depending on the size of your school and the volume in your area, the team may see your school every other year.

GLASSES

Students who need glasses will choose them on the day of their appointment, with the help of a licensed optician. There are a variety of glasses to choose from, and the optician will ensure the size will work for the student. Glasses typically take 2-3 weeks to arrive at our office, and then the team will reach out to the school contact to set a dispensing date. The team will pass out the glasses to the students on the dispensing day, and make any needed adjustments. If a student is absent, the glasses will be left with the school contact.

Replacements: Students are prone to losing, breaking, and damaging their glasses. The Vision Outreach program is dedicated to providing at least one pair of replacement glasses per student. Depending on their insurance, they may be eligible for more than one replacement pair or glasses parts. Exceptions can be made in extreme circumstances.

COST

These services are provided at no out-of-pocket cost to students. If the student has insurance that our company accepts, especially Medicaid, we will charge their insurance. If the patient does not have insurance, or if there is leftover cost, HPWO will cover the remaining balance. Families will never receive a bill for Vision Outreach services.

SERVICES

- Comprehensive Eye Exam

- Glasses
- Follow-up care
- Referrals for follow up treatment

SCHOOL SIGN UP

Due to the high demand of in-school vision services, vision outreach services are only available to schools already serviced by the dental outreach program. Once availability opens up in a region, vision outreach staff will reach out to schools to offer services. These decisions are made based on location, poverty rates, and school size. Services are offered carefully to operate efficiently and serve as many students as possible.

CONTACT US

If you have questions about our services, please reach out!

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