



# SB 187 - Please Support Vision Screenings for Oregon Students!

## Why Some Oregon Students are Failing

- **25% of all children have an undiagnosed vision problem** significant enough to affect their performance in school (Children’s Vision Care in the 21st Century and Its Impact on Education – academic study).
- **“Good eyesight facilitates learning** in school and development in general.” (Healthier Students are Better Learners – academic study)
- A student who is low income and can’t read at grade level by the third grade is **13 times less likely to graduate from high school** (Education Week – academic study).

## Senate Bill 187 Addresses an Unfunded Mandate

- **SB 187 is a follow up to House Bill 3000** passed in 2013, requiring all Oregon students to provide proof of a vision screening or eye exam prior to starting school.
- Treatment can dramatically improve student outcomes and positively affect high school graduation rates.
- **HB 3000 sparked a public-private partnership**, with schools providing logistical support and the State partnering with private non-profit entities to provide necessary equipment, staff, training and resources such as funding.
- The Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation (OLSHF) **has held up their end, now screening 180,000 Oregon students** with high quality, free vision screening in a school setting, an increase of 720% since 2013.
- **SB 187 would allow every Oregon school district to access funds for vision screening.** Public funding would be used effectively and efficiently. (OLSHF cost of \$3.75 per student, compared to average \$27 CPT insurance cost.)
- SB 187 would provide funding **to strengthen resource and referral systems with eye doctors** in local communities to facilitate follow up and ongoing eye health for children and their families.

## Partners Also Supporting SB 187

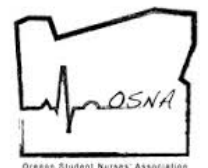
Thanks to relationships with the following partners, more Oregon students are able to see and learn to their potential.



**OREGON ACADEMY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY**  
Eye Physicians & Surgeons



**OREGON OPTOMETRIC PHYSICIANS ASSOCIATION**



### **Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation**

Our mission is to screen, treat, save and restore sight and hearing for those in need, in partnership with Lions Clubs.  
(503) 413-7399 | (800) 635-4667 | Info@OLSHF.org | www.OLSHF.org

## How Much Does It Cost and What Are We Paying For?

- Oregon has recognized the importance of preventing and identifying vision loss. **OAR 581-022-0705 mandates school districts are responsible for vision screening** and HB 3000 requires schools to obtain proof of screening or an exam.
- **With approximately 400,000 students in grades K-8, 25% of whom have an undiagnosed vision condition,** Oregon cannot afford outdated, and labor intensive vision screening methods.
- In 2010, the Oregon Department of Education issued an **Oregon Vision Screening Pilot Project to analyze vision screening programs**, finding the average vision screening cost was \$10.58 per student.
- Now technological advances allow for fast, objective screening. **HIPAA and FERPA compliant data collection and reporting means students' information is secure.**
- Through digital screening and data collection, OLSHF has reduced the average cost to \$3.75 per student.
  - **\$3.75 per student times 400,000 enrolled students in grades K-8 equals \$1,500,000 annually.**

Cost breakdown:

- \$1.87 Payroll/Labor
- \$0.71 Screening Equipment
- \$0.75 Operations/Supplies
- \$0.23 IT Security/Support
- \$0.19 Insurance



*Public funding would be used effectively and efficiently at our cost of \$3.75 per student, compared to the average \$27 CPT insurance cost.*

- **Approval of SB 187 will allocate \$3,000,000 biennially to reimburse schools for the costs of vision screenings and would provide sufficient support to expand programs to cover every school district and every student in Oregon.**

## Statewide Support for SB 187

**"This is the third year we have partnered with Lions and it has been a game changer."**

*-Claire Davis-Thran, School Nurse*

**"The doctor told me that if this issue had not been identified before the 4th or 5th grade, the damage would have been permanent to my 5 year old daughter's vision."**

*-Misty Martin-Zimmerman, Hazeldale Elementary School (Beaverton) parent*

**"The Spot system catches more kids than any other because most children can't explain well at a young age that they have a weak eye that gets tired."**

*-Dr. Claire Midson, Tigard Optometry*

**"OLSHF screening results have added to the level of confidence and validity of the screening process, procedures and technology."**

*-Walt Davenport, Principal, Central Point Elementary*

**"Through all your efforts this year we have been able to systematically, accurately and timely address the screening and follow up on the vision of our students and ultimately enable their success in school."**

*-Patricia Pokrzywa, Corvallis School District Nurse*



**The number of Oregon students that we are currently screening for vision health issues**

**Current Year 2016-17: 171,947 students screened** through 5/31/17, projected 173,000 for full program year (10.5% referral rate or 16,338 students referred for follow up eye care provider exam) during 589 events

**Immediate Past Year 2015-16: 177,599 students screened** (10.6% referral rate or 18,840 students referred for follow up eye provider exam) during 598 events

**OLSHF annual expenses for vision screenings including: Labor, insurance, hardware, software, travel, etc.**

	<b>Current 2016-17</b>	<b>Past 2015-16</b>
<b>Labor/Payroll:</b>	\$ 403,895	\$ 470,280
<b>Operations/Supplies/Equipment:</b>	\$ 73,673	\$ 86,947
<b>Fuel/Travel/Per Diem:</b>	\$ 43,278	\$ 35,861
<b>Insurance/Contingency:</b>	\$ 29,910	\$ 32,831
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	\$ 550,755	\$ 625,919
<b>Total # of Students Screened:</b>	171,947	177,599
<b>Total Expenses Per Student Screened:</b>	<b>\$ 3.20</b>	<b>\$ 3.53</b>

**Total Volunteer hours on an annual basis**

**Average # of Volunteers per Event: 5**

(Volunteers are typically recruited through the school to ensure background checks are completed as required by the district/school. OLSHF staff assist with volunteer recruitment as needed. Depending on the size of the student body to be screened, as few as two volunteers may be adequate.)

**OLSHF Student Vision Screening cost per student**

	<b>Current 2016-17</b>
<b>Labor/Payroll:</b>	\$ 2.35
<b>Operations/Supplies/Equipment:</b>	\$ 0.43
<b>Fuel/Travel/Per Diem:</b>	\$ 0.25
<b>Insurance/Contingency:</b>	\$ 0.17
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 3.20</b>

**SB 187 Fiscal Request**

Please know that our current expenses for vision screenings in Oregon schools enables us to screen less than half of students in Grades K-8 (grades mandated by HB 3000, passed in 2013). We have spent reserve operating funds the past two fiscal years to screen at this level and will decrease the number significantly in 2017-18 if SB 187 does not pass.

At \$3.75 per student, it would cost \$1.5 million per year to screen the 400,000 Oregon students in Grades K-8, resulting in the \$3 million per biennium as requested in SB 187.

**Questions?**

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2-14-17

Senator Roblan and members of the House Committee on Education:

Beaverton School Nurses strongly support SB 187. Please fund the previously unfunded vision screening mandate that was HB 3000. This is an issue of equity and parity for all Oregon students. All students deserve equal access to a quality, effective vision screening program. Access to a quality program that meets the minimum requirements of HB300 may be financially problematic for some districts. Enacting HB 187 would “level the playing field” for our students around the state.

HB 187 directs ODE to reimburse education providers for expenses incurred from providing vision screenings and establishes a Vision Health Account for the purpose of making reimbursements.

We know that identification and early treatment of correctable eye problems can greatly improve student outcome. In one Beaverton pilot program, we found that 25% of our intensive readers at one title 1 school needed reading glasses. Why can't Johnny read well? Johnny cannot read well because he cannot see! If 80% of learning is visual, we are denying these children access to an appropriate education. Ensuring that a child has needed glasses may also reduce the costs of providing intensive interventions.

We ask you to support HB 187 as all Oregon children deserve to have vision issues identified and addressed. Distribution of needed funds will enable all districts to provide a vision program that will meet the mandates in HB 3000.

Sincerely,

*Kim Bartholomew, RN*

Kim Bartholomew, RN  
Oregon Director for the National Association of School Nurses  
Oregon School Nurses Association Board Member  
Beaverton School District Nurse  
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