



SB 187 - VOTE YES to fund 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

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



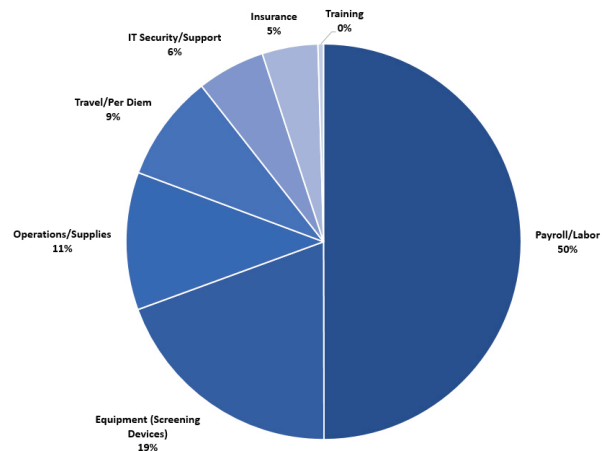
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How Much Does It Cost and What Are We Paying For?

- For decades, Oregon has recognized the importance of preventing, identifying, and managing health conditions such as vision loss. **OR 581-022-0705 mandates school districts are responsible for vision screening programs** and HB 3000 requires schools to obtain proof of vision screening or exam.
- **With approximately 400,000 students in grades K-8, 25% of whom have an undiagnosed vision condition,** and limited resources for schools, Oregon cannot afford outdated, slow, and labor intensive vision screening methods.
- In 2010, the Oregon Department of Education was directed to fund an **Oregon Vision Screening Pilot Project to analyze the resources and delivery methods of vision screening programs** throughout the state. At that time, the project found the average cost of a vision screening was \$10.58 per student.
- Since then, technological advances in vision screening devices has allowed for fast, objective checks for multiple potential conditions. **HIPAA and FERPA compliant digital data collection and reporting of results means students' information is secure and delivered in a timely basis.**
- Through the use of digital screening devices and data collection, OLSHF has reduced the average cost of a vision screening to \$3.75 per student.

- **\$3.75 per student times 400,000 enrolled students in grades K-8 equals \$1,500,000 annually as summarized here:**

- \$750,000 Payroll/Labor
- \$292,000 Screening Equipment
- \$169,000 Operations/Supplies
- \$131,000 Travel/Per Diem
- \$ 84,000 IT Security/Support
- \$ 68,000 Insurance
- \$ 6,000 Training



- **A YES VOTE for 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.**



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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

Partners Also Supporting SB 187

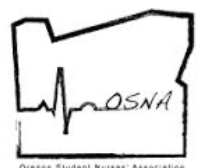
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Statement by Paul Linnman, KEX Kids Fund, in Support of SB 187
Oregon Senate Education Committee
February 14, 2017

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak briefly in behalf of Senate Bill 187.

My name is Paul Linnman. I'm a member of the on-air staff at KEX radio in Portland, and spokesperson for our non-profit KEX Kids Fund. Since 1987, the KEX Kids Fund has provided eyeglasses and continuing vision care to children in need.

We primarily serve 16 counties of Oregon and Southwest Washington, but in our 30 years of existence have actually helped students in 20 Oregon counties, having never said "no" to a child in need of our services.

Last year, we received the National Service to Children Award from the National Association of Broadcasters, as the only broadcast outlet in America that operates its own charitable organization providing direct services to children.

We are primarily funded by KEX listeners through their donations during an annual pledge drive, and operate at no cost to public agencies or taxpayers. With administrative services provided by KEX, and a volunteer executive director, our overhead is minimal.

The way the program works is that, ideally, teachers or school nurses identify a child with poor vision. If a student meets the requirements of the federal free lunch or reduced-fee lunch programs, he or she qualifies for our services.

A simple application process directs the student to the nearest of our approximately 100 optometrists, who provide their services and glasses at reduced cost. Usually within about two weeks, the child has glasses and the promise of continuing care.

The result is often life changing! As we've learned from teachers and parents many times over, the students we serve begin to excel, moving quickly from the back of the class to the top of the class. Providing the ability to see words on a page or chalk board, is all it takes!

But there is a catch. Often times, vision problems go unnoticed. Teachers with overcrowded classes may easily miss why a certain student isn't performing well. Sadly, we've also found it common for a child not to understand he or she has poor vision. Such students typically realize they aren't keeping up, but don't know why.

That's why vision screening, as provided by our partner, the Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation, is vitally important. It is also why our board of directors has chosen to help support the screening financially. We simply must vision screen every child in Oregon schools or risk missing kids in need of our services.

While the initial investment to do so is not great, the return on investment is. Educators tell us that in order to succeed in life a child must first thrive in the classroom. Those who don't will likely cost the system and taxpayers much more down the road.

That's why the KEX Kids Fund encourages your support of Senate Bill 187. Thanks again for the opportunity to do so.

Senator Roblan and members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today for your support of Senate Bill 187.

Good afternoon, ladies and gentleman. My name is Ella Osborne and I am an 8 year old 3rd grader at Bonny Slope Elementary in Beaverton. My story begins at my 3-month checkup, where my pediatrician found a spot in my eye that turned out to be a cataract. At my follow up visit with my ophthalmologist, it was discovered that I also have amblyopia. My treatment has included patch therapy and then atropine therapy, which are dilation drops which I was given 5 times a month. I got my first pair of glasses at just 2 years old. I am grateful that my condition was diagnosed and treated at such an early age and that my family was in a position to provide the care I needed. Sadly, for many other children, that is not the case. Thanks to leaders like you, we are making progress in bringing awareness to this topic, but we still have a long way to go. A student's success in school is directly connected to their ability to see, and I am no exception to that rule. 1-3-5. Those are some important numbers. A child's **first** eye exam should happen by the time they're 1 year old, the second at age 3 and the last at age five. Early detection is key! It ensures that any opportunity to treat visual challenges is not missed. Prior to House Bill 3000, 76% of 5 year olds had never had even one eye exam. Vision screenings for this program happen in Kindergarten, first, third, and fifth grade. By passing SB 187 and dedicating funds to this program, our schools will be filled with children who can see clearly. Because 80% of what we learn is through our eyes, care and treatment of those eyes cannot be overlooked. As I sit in a classroom, glasses on and ready to learn, I'm aware that someone is struggling because they can't see well. Denying someone the right to see doesn't just impact their ability to read, but also to play and sometimes to behave and even make friends. I ask you now to visualize your favorite flower. Picture the smiling face of a loved one. Think about the words you read every day or maybe those in your favorite book. Sight is a gift. A gift that I treasure and one I think everyone deserves. I hope you agree with me and support Senate Bill 187. By doing so, you will ensure that all Oregon children have the opportunity to experience the gift of sight also. Thank you.