



A Union of Professionals

Illinois Federation Of Teachers

An affiliate of the AFT, AFL-CIO

700 S. College
Springfield, IL 62704
T: 217/544-8562
F: 217/544-1729
www.ift-aft.org

LEGISLATIVE FACT SHEET

Senate Bill 641

Student Vision Examinations

Sponsors: Sen. Deanna Demuzio/Rep. Jil Tracy

VOTE YES TO OVERRIDE THE AMENDATORY VETO

THE ORIGINAL BILL:

1. Ensured every child would receive an eye examination prior to beginning school in Kindergarten or First Grade.
2. Provided for an eye exam given by an Optometrist, Ophthalmologist or other physician with the proper training and equipment.
3. Included the definition of an eye examination that was developed by the Illinois Optometric Association and the Illinois Association of Ophthalmology and was agreed to by all parties including the Illinois State Medical Society.
4. Contained language allowing school superintendents the ability to grant exceptions if eye care providers were not available or a parent failed to obtain an eye examination for a child.

THE AMENDATORY VETO:

1. Does not provide a child with an adequate exam to ensure that they have the vision and eye health to succeed in school.
2. Does not meet the standard of practice for an eye examination.
3. Creates a conflict for the optometrists between what is currently required in law and rule and what is required under this act.
4. Reduces the examination to a screening while continuing to call it an eye exam. This would mislead parents and allow a provider to bill Medicaid and other insurance as if a complete eye exam had been given. A vision screening is not a substitute for a complete eye and vision evaluation by an eye doctor, as confirmed by Illinois Public Act 93-0504.

The bill is designed to ensure that all children have the visual tools needed to start school, a prerequisite to academic success.

NO CHILD SHOULD HAVE TO FAIL...TO SEE!