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To: District Superintendents of BOCES
Superintendents of Public School Districts
Principals of Public Schools
Superintendents and Principals of State-Operated Schools
Charter School Leaders
Chief Emergency Officers

From: Gemma C. Rinefierd, Ed.D.

Subject: Health Screenings Regulation 136.3 (e)

The NYS Education Department (NYSED) has had contact from an organization that has been provided data indicating schools are not conducting student health screenings with fidelity related to hearing testing. Therefore, NYSED would like to take this opportunity to remind schools of student health screening requirements. New York State Education Law Article 19 [Section 905](#), and accompanying Commissioner's Regulation [136.3\(e\)](#), mandate scoliosis, vision, and hearing screening for students. To ensure that all students receive these screenings, public schools are required to conduct student health screenings for scoliosis in grades 5 and 7 for females and grade 9 for males, and vision and hearing of all new entrants and in grades PreK or K, 1, 3, 5, 7, and 11 *if they are not documented on a health exam submitted to the school*. Additionally, Commissioner's regulation 136.3(e) require screenings conducted in a school are done by an appropriately trained and licensed health professional.

The importance of ensuring these screenings are completed with fidelity cannot be overstated. Vision and hearing problems can go undetected and impact a student's behavior and/or academic achievement. Scoliosis must be identified as soon as possible to prevent lifelong physical issues. Thus, it is crucial that students are screened to identify those who need further evaluation by a health care provider.

To assist schools with meeting this requirement, which includes specific components for each screening and certain parent/guardian notification, information is available in NYSED's screening guidelines: [Scoliosis Screening Guidelines for Schools](#) (2018), [Vision Screening Guidelines for Schools](#) (2018), and [Hearing Screening Guidelines for Schools](#) (2018).

The NYSED, in collaboration with the NYS Center for School Health (Center), has developed additional screening resources located on the Center's [Health Services Samples & Forms / Overview \(schoolhealthny.com\)](#). These resources are located under the *Screening Charts/ Forms/ Letters/ Notifications* tab.

Thank you for continuing to collaborate with the NYSED and for your ongoing efforts to keep students healthy and safe. Should you have questions, or seek further information, please contact the Office of Student Support Services at StudentSupportServices@nysed.gov or 518.486.6090.