

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 5, 2014

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 2, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 8, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 10, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 28, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1840

Introduced by Assembly Member Campos

February 18, 2014

An act to amend Section 49455 of the Education Code, relating to pupil health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1840, as amended, Campos. Pupil health: vision appraisal.

Existing law requires, upon first enrollment in a California school district of a child at a California elementary school, and at least every 3rd year thereafter until the child has completed the 8th grade, the child's vision to be appraised by the school nurse or other authorized person, as specified.

This bill would authorize a child's vision to be appraised by using an eye chart or any ~~other~~ scientifically validated photoscreening test. The bill would require photoscreening tests to be performed, under an agreement with, or the supervision of, an optometrist or ophthalmologist, by the school nurse or a trained individual who meets requirements established by the State Department of Education.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 49455 of the Education Code is amended
2 to read:
3 49455. (a) Upon first enrollment in a California school district
4 of a child at a California elementary school, and at least every third
5 year thereafter until the child has completed the eighth grade, the
6 child’s vision shall be appraised by the school nurse or other
7 authorized person under Section 49452. This appraisal shall include
8 tests for visual acuity and color vision; however, color vision shall
9 be appraised once and only on male children, and the results of
10 the appraisal shall be entered in the health record of the pupil.
11 Color vision appraisal need not begin until the male pupil has
12 reached the first grade. Gross external observation of the child’s
13 eyes, visual performance, and perception shall be done by the
14 school nurse and the classroom teacher. The appraisal may be
15 waived, if the child’s parents so desire, by their presenting of a
16 certificate from a physician and surgeon, a physician assistant
17 practicing in compliance with Chapter 7.7 (commencing with
18 Section 3500) of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code,
19 or an optometrist setting out the results of a determination of the
20 child’s vision, including visual acuity and color vision.
21 (b) A child’s vision may be appraised by using an eye chart or
22 any—~~other~~ scientifically validated photoscreening test.
23 Photoscreening tests shall be performed, under an agreement with,
24 or the supervision of, an optometrist or ophthalmologist, by the
25 school nurse or a trained individual who meets requirements
26 established by the department.
27 (c) This section shall not apply to a child whose parents or
28 guardian file with the principal of the school in which the child is
29 enrolling, a statement in writing that they adhere to the faith or
30 teachings of any well-recognized religious sect, denomination, or
31 organization and in accordance with its creed, tenets, or principles
32 depend for healing upon prayer in the practice of their religion.

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