

Chapter 246-760 WAC  
AUDITORY AND VISUAL STANDARDS — SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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**246-760-001**

**What is the purpose of these rules?**

These rules implement chapter 32, Laws of 1971. Under this chapter, each board of school directors in the state shall provide for and require screening of the auditory and visual acuity of children attending schools in their districts to determine if any children have defects sufficient to retard them in their studies. Each board of school directors shall establish procedures to implement these rules.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.200. 02-20-079, § 246-760-001, filed 9/30/02, effective 10/31/02. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050 and 28A.210.020. 92-02-019 (Order 225B), § 246-760-001, filed 12/23/91, effective 1/23/92. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. 91-02-051 (Order 124B), recodified as § 246-760-001, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91; Order 63, § 248-144-010 (codified as WAC 248-148-010), filed 11/1/71.]

**246-760-020**

**How frequently must schools screen children?**

Schools shall conduct auditory and visual screening of children:

(1) In kindergarten and grades one, two, three, five, and seven; and

(2) For any child showing symptoms of possible loss in auditory or visual acuity referred to the district by parents, guardians, or school staff.

(3) If resources permit, schools shall annually screen children at other grade levels.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.200. 02-20-079, § 246-760-020, filed 9/30/02, effective 10/31/02. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. 91-02-051 (Order 124B), recodified as § 246-760-020, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW

28A.31.030. 87-22-010 (Order 306), § 248-148-021, filed 10/26/87.]

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**246-760-030****What are the auditory acuity screening standards for screening equipment and procedures?**

(1) Schools shall use auditory screening equipment providing tonal stimuli at frequencies at one thousand, two thousand, and four thousand herz (Hz) at hearing levels of twenty decibels (dB), as measured at the earphones, in reference to American National Standards Institute (ANSI) 1996 standards.

(2) Qualified persons will check the calibration of frequencies and intensity at least every twelve months, at the earphones, using equipment designed for audiometer calibration.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.200. 02-20-079, § 246-760-030, filed 9/30/02, effective 10/31/02. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. 91-02-051 (Order 124B), recodified as § 246-760-030, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.31.030. 87-22-010 (Order 306), § 248-148-031, filed 10/26/87.]

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**246-760-040****What are the procedures for auditory acuity screening?**

(1) Schools shall screen all children referenced in WAC 246-760-020 on an individual basis at one thousand, two thousand, and four thousand Hz.

(2) The screener shall:

(a) Present each of the tonal stimuli at a hearing level of twenty dB based on the ANSI 1996 standards;

(b) Conduct screenings in an environment free of extraneous noise;

(c) If at all possible, complete screening within the first semester of each school year;

(d) Place the results of screenings, any referrals, and referral results in each student's health and/or school record; and

(e) Forward the results to the student's new school if the student transfers.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.200. 02-20-079, § 246-760-040, filed 9/30/02, effective 10/31/02. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050 and 28A.210.020. 92-02-019 (Order 225B), § 246-760-040, filed 12/23/91, effective 1/23/92. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. 91-02-051 (Order 124B), recodified as § 246-760-040, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.31.030. 87-22-010 (Order 306), § 248-148-035, filed 10/26/87.]

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**246-760-050****What are the auditory acuity screening referral procedures?**

(1) If a child does not respond to one or more frequencies in either ear:

(a) The school must rescreen the child within six weeks; and

(b) Notify their teachers of the need for preferential positioning in class because of the possibility of decreased hearing; and

(c) Notify the parents or legal guardian of the need for audiological evaluation if the student fails the second screening.

(2) Schools shall notify parents or legal guardian of the need for medical evaluation if:

- (a) Indicated by audiological evaluation; or
- (b) Audiological evaluation is not available.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.200. 02-20-079, § 246-760-050, filed 9/30/02, effective 10/31/02. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. 91-02-051 (Order 124B), recodified as § 246-760-050, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.31.030. 87-22-010 (Order 306), § 248-148-091, filed 10/26/87.]

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#### **246-760-060**

##### **What are the auditory acuity screening qualifications for personnel?**

Each school district shall designate a district audiologist or district staff member having:

- (1) Responsibility for administering the auditory screening program; and
- (2) Training and experience to:
  - (a) Develop an administrative plan for conducting auditory screening in cooperation with the appropriate school personnel to ensure the program is carried out efficiently and effectively;
  - (b) Obtain the necessary instrumentation for carrying out the screening program, and ensuring the equipment is in proper working order and calibration; and
  - (c) Secure appropriate personnel for carrying out the screening program, if assistance is necessary, and for assuring these personnel are sufficiently trained to:
    - (i) Understand the purposes and regulations involved in the auditory screening programs; and
    - (ii) Utilize the screening equipment to ensure maximum accuracy;
  - (d) Ensure records are made and distributed as appropriate; and
  - (e) Disseminate information to other school personnel familiarizing them with aspects of a child's behavior indicating the need for referral for auditory screening.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.200. 02-20-079, § 246-760-060, filed 9/30/02, effective 10/31/02. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. 91-02-051 (Order 124B), recodified as § 246-760-060, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.31.030. 87-22-010 (Order 306), § 248-148-101, filed 10/26/87.]

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#### **246-760-070**

##### **What visual acuity screening equipment must be used?**

Personnel conducting the screening must use a Snellen test chart for screening for distance central vision acuity. Either the Snellen E chart or the standard Snellen distance acuity chart may be used as appropriate to the child's age and abilities. The test chart must be properly illuminated and glare free.

Other screening procedures equivalent to the Snellen test may be used only if approved by the state board of health.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.200. 02-20-079, § 246-760-070, filed 9/30/02, effective 10/31/02. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. 91-02-051 (Order 124B), recodified as § 246-760-070, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.31.030. 87-22-010 (Order 306), § 248-148-121, filed 10/26/87.]

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**246-760-080****What are the visual acuity screening procedures?**

(1) Schools shall:

- (a) Screen children with corrective lenses for distance viewing with their corrective lenses on;
- (b) Place the results of screening, any referrals, and referral results in each student's health and/or school record; and
- (c) Forward the results to the student's new school if the student transfers.

(2) If school personnel observe a child with other signs or symptoms related to eye problems and if the signs or symptoms negatively influence the child in his or her studies, school personnel shall refer the child to the parents or guardians for professional care.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.200. 02-20-079, § 246-760-080, filed 9/30/02, effective 10/31/02. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. 91-02-051 (Order 124B), recodified as § 246-760-080, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.31.030. 87-22-010 (Order 306), § 248-148-123, filed 10/26/87.]

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**246-760-090****What are the visual acuity screening referral procedures?**

Schools shall rescreen students having a visual acuity of 20/40 or less in either eye as determined by the Snellen test or its approved equivalent within two weeks or as soon as possible after the original screening. Failure is indicated by the inability to identify the majority of letters or symbols on the thirty foot line of the test chart at a distance of twenty feet.

Schools shall inform parents or guardians of students failing the second screening, in writing, of the need and importance for the child to receive professional care.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.200. 02-20-079, § 246-760-090, filed 9/30/02, effective 10/31/02. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. 91-02-051 (Order 124B), recodified as § 246-760-090, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.31.030. 87-22-010 (Order 306), § 248-148-131, filed 10/26/87.]

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**246-760-100****What are the qualifications for visual screening personnel?**

(1) Screening must be performed in a manner consistent with RCW 28A.210.020 by persons competent to administer screening procedures as a function of their professional training and background or special training and demonstrated competence under supervision.

(2) Technicians and nonprofessional volunteers must have adequate preparation and thorough understanding of the tests as demonstrated by their performance under supervision.

(3) Supervision, training, reporting and referral shall be the responsibility of a professional person specifically designated by the school administration. He or she may be a school nurse or public health nurse, a special educator, teacher or administrator who possesses basic knowledge of the objectives and methods of visual acuity screening, supervisory experience and ability, demonstrated ability to teach others and demonstrated capacity to work well with people.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.020. 10-15-100, § 246-760-100, filed 7/20/10, effective 8/20/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.210.200. 02-20-079, § 246-760-100, filed 9/30/02, effective 10/31/02. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. 91-02-051 (Order 124B), recodified as § 246-760-100, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91; Order 63, § 248-144-150 (codified as WAC 248-148-150), filed 11/1/71.]