



Dear Parents,

Poor eye-sight can negatively impact academic performance which can result in failure of a grade as well as state assessments. All third grade students must take and pass the Third Grade Reading Summative Assessment. If a student is unsuccessful on this assessment and does not qualify for a good cause exemption, that student will repeat third grade. Because this is such a high stakes test, it is imperative that students be given every opportunity to succeed and that all potential barriers be removed.

The Mississippi Vision Foundation working with the Mississippi Optometric Association is offering to do a no-cost eye exam for every student who does not pass the Third Grade Reading Assessment. An eye exam is more comprehensive than the Vision Screenings conducted every two years in grades K-4. Participating optometrists are listed at the Vision Foundation's website, www.msvisionfoundation.org along with guidelines for the program.

As a practicing elementary school principal, I have seen how poor eyesight left untreated could cause a lack of poor reading skills, other academic struggles, and failing grades. Last year, 88 percent of the children seen through this MVF program had undetected vision problems which were impacting their ability to learn.

Hearing and vision screenings are normally conducted within the first two months of school. If you receive any correspondence from your child's school stating he or she did not pass their eye screening exam, please schedule an appointment to see an eye professional. The Mississippi Vision Foundation is available to provide information and resources to assist with additional examinations. The goal of this organization, as well as every school administrator, is for every child in the state of Mississippi to achieve the highest academic success and not be impeded by poor vision. Please work alongside the Mississippi Vision Foundation and the Mississippi Optometric Association to help Mississippi's children be able to see and thus achieve their bright futures.

Sincerely,

Nikki Graham

Nikki N. Graham, Ed.S.
On behalf of the Mississippi Vision Foundation