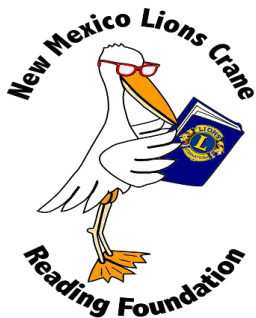
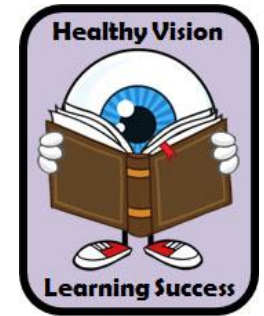


Achieving Healthy Vision & Reading Proficiency for all NM Students



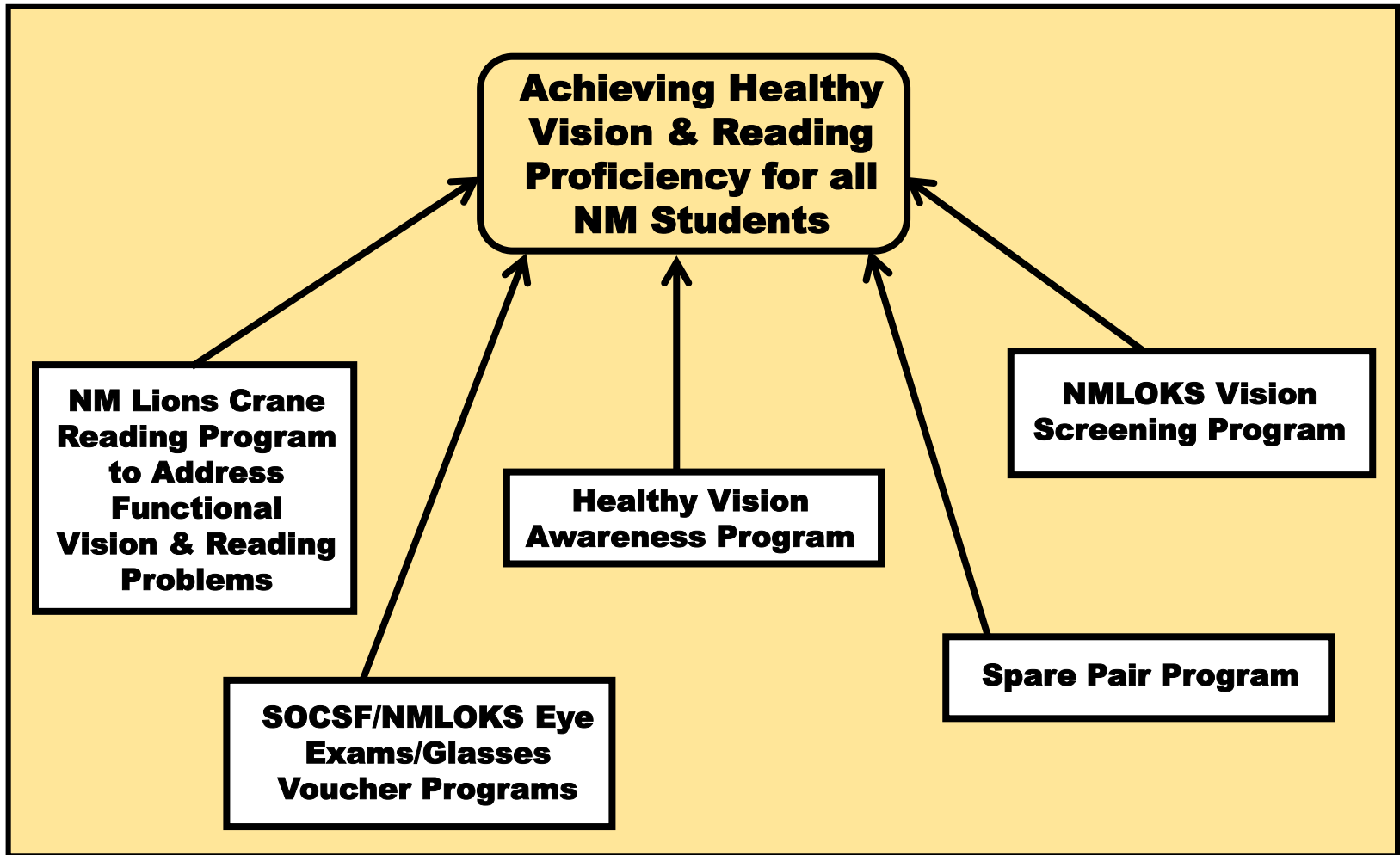
**Dr. George Mulholland, PhD
President**



**Brenda Dunn
Program Manager**

**Bryson McCool
Secretary/Treasurer**

NM Lions Operation KidSight & NM Lions Crane Reading Foundation Initiatives To Enhance Healthy Vision and Reading Proficiency



The Healthy Vision Unawareness Problem in New Mexico

- **Many parents do not realize the importance of their child seeing well to be able to read and learn well.**
 - ✓ **35-40% of Pre-K, K, 1st grade and 3rd grade students referred for a possible vision problem by KidSight screening teams never receive an eye exam.**
 - ✓ **Parents do not follow up to ensure if their child has glasses, they bring them to school.**
 - ✓ **In a significant number of cases where a student breaks or loses their glasses, the parents never get around to replacing them.**
- **Many teachers are not cognizant of symptoms of possible vision problems.**
- **Teachers have no sure way of identifying which of their students should be wearing glasses.**
- **If a student with glasses is screened and referred, it means the student's vision has changed since he/she got their glasses. In most cases, that student has had the glasses for more than a year. Parents do not realize once their child is diagnosed with a vision problem, they should receive an eye exam every year after that.**

The Referral Follow-Up Non-Compliance Problem in NM

2018-19 Referral Follow-up Stats in Las Cruces Elementary Schools

Las Cruce Elelmentary School	Total Students Referred	# Students Who Received Eye Exam
<i>Alameda</i>	45	39
<i>Booker T. Washington</i>	44	23
<i>Central</i>	12	8
<i>Cesar Chavez</i>	52	36
<i>Columbia</i>	41	11
<i>Conlee</i>	53	26
<i>Desert Hills</i>	52	32
<i>Dona Ana</i>	25	12
<i>East Picacho</i>	36	24
<i>Fairacres</i>	19	9
<i>Hermosa Heights</i>	34	27
<i>Highland</i>	42	39
<i>Hillrise</i>	32	20
<i>Jornada</i>	40	5
<i>Loma Heights</i>	45	27
<i>MacArthur</i>	27	23
<i>Mesilla</i>	31	13
<i>Mesilla Park</i>	39	28
<i>Monte Vista</i>	42	40
<i>Sonoma</i>	59	37
<i>Tombough</i>	38	22
<i>University Hills</i>	42	19
<i>Valley View</i>	50	29
<i>White Sands</i>	13	11

- ✓ During the 2018-19 school year, 353 or 38.7% of Pre-K/K/1st/3rd students in Las Cruces elementary schools were screened and referred but never received an eye exam.
- ✓ The referral follow-up non-compliance rate across NM is 35-40%. In small towns without vision service providers, it is much higher.
- ✓ Lack of financial wherewithal is no longer a reason for non-compliance by parents. The Save Our Children's Sight Fund and NMLOKS voucher programs provide an eye exam and glasses at no cost for any NM student ages 3-18 years old not covered by Medicaid or insurance.
- ✓ School nurses contact parents of referred students numerous times to alert them their child needs an eye exam but many times to no avail.

Higher Referral Rate of LCPS 3rd Graders 2019-20

School	Pre-K, K & 1st Grade Students			3rd Grade Students			Increase in Referral Rate of 3rd Grade Over Pre-K/K/1st
	# Screened	# Referred	Referral Rate	# Screened	# Referred	Referral Rate	
Alameda	109	22	20%	73	19	26%	29%
Booker T. Washington	154	32	21%	38	12	32%	52%
Central	71	7	10%	38	11	29%	194%
Cesar Chavez/Sunrise	343	66	19%	106	31	29%	52%
Columbia	104	16	15%	46	10	22%	41%
Conlee	174	39	22%	54	13	24%	7%
Desert Hills	241	36	15%	107	15	14%	-6%
Dona Ana	132	19	14%	43	11	26%	78%
East Picacho	151	17	11%	84	17	20%	80%
Fairacres	140	20	14%	68	14	21%	44%
Hermosa Heights	156	37	24%	55	15	27%	15%
Highland	248	27	11%	121	19	16%	44%
Hillrise	166	27	16%	91	20	22%	35%
Jornada	185	25	14%	93	16	17%	27%
Loma Heights	161	27	17%	71	19	27%	60%
MacArthur	136	31	23%	59	18	31%	34%
Mesilla	110	14	13%	36	8	22%	75%
Mesilla Park	148	28	19%	66	20	30%	60%
Monte Vista	219	28	13%	113	22	19%	52%
Sonoma	232	29	13%	118	22	19%	49%
Tombough	208	28	13%	92	18	20%	45%
University Hills	135	21	16%	56	11	20%	26%
Valley View	151	32	21%	41	14	34%	61%
White Sands	74	4	5%	31	1	3%	-40%

3948 632 16.0% 1700 376 22.1%

- Las Cruces elementary school nurses asked NMLOKS screening teams to start screening 3rd graders.
- Screening results reveal the referral rate of 3rd graders (22.1%) is significantly higher than that for Pre-K/K/1st grade students (16%).
- Majority of referred 3rd graders have glasses but do not have them at school because the glasses are broken or lost or they simply never bring them to school.
- About 20% of the 3rd graders with glasses are referred because they have had their glasses for more than a year and their vision has changed.

“If a student is not reading proficiently by the end of 3rd grade, they are four times more likely to be a high school drop out.”

In Conclusion.....

❑ Accomplishments

- ✓ Over 40,000 NM students screened during 2018-19 school year by NM Lions Operation KidSight Program (NMLOKS).
- ✓ NM Lions Crane Reading Foundation (NMLCRF) has successful reading enhancement programs in Las Cruces and Grant County.
- ✓ NMLOKS and Save Our Children Sight Fund voucher program and the Spare Pair Program provided nearly 500 3-18 year-old NM students not covered by Medicaid or insurance with eye exams and/or glasses during 2018-19 school year.
- ✓ Spare Pair Program provides a free pair of glasses to students who cannot seem to get them to school.

❑ Critical Problems That Need To Be Addressed

- ✓ 35-40% of students who are screened and referred never get an eye exam.
- ✓ A considerable number of 3rd grade students are being referred for a vision problem that should have been resolved by their parents before entering 3rd grade.

❑ Possible Solutions

- ✓ Explore state mandated requirements: (1) All students screened and referred for a possible vision problem must receive an eye exam; and (2) Students with eye glasses are required to wear them in class.
- ✓ Start also screening 2nd graders to help reduce the number of referred 3rd graders.
- ✓ Major effort to come up with the financial wherewithal to have mobile vision services available to schools across NM to provide eye exams and glasses for referred students whose parents do not comply with nurse's requests.

Information Slides

Introduction

- Healthy vision, one of the major factors to be able to successfully acquire knowledge, is frequently overlooked with respect to a child's early learning experience!
- A report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine cited: "Undiagnosed and uncorrected eye and vision problems in children are a significant public health concern."
- The American Optometric Association investigated this phenomenon and came to the following conclusion:

"Why are the percentages of non-adherence by parents to get their children the vision care they need so high? There are three types of barriers to vision care for children:

Financial. Many families do not have vision insurance and cannot afford to take their children to see eye-care professionals or pay for glasses.

Planning. Logistical issues include transportation to the doctor's office, child care for other family members, and taking time off work, especially when the caretaker works in a low-skilled job for an hourly wage.

Priority. In some cases, families often view vision care as an expense that can be deferred. In other cases, parents simply do not believe that their children have vision problems."

Introduction

- ❑ Statistics for a child entering 1st grade
 - ✓ 86% have never had an eye exam
 - ✓ 20-25% will have a vision problem



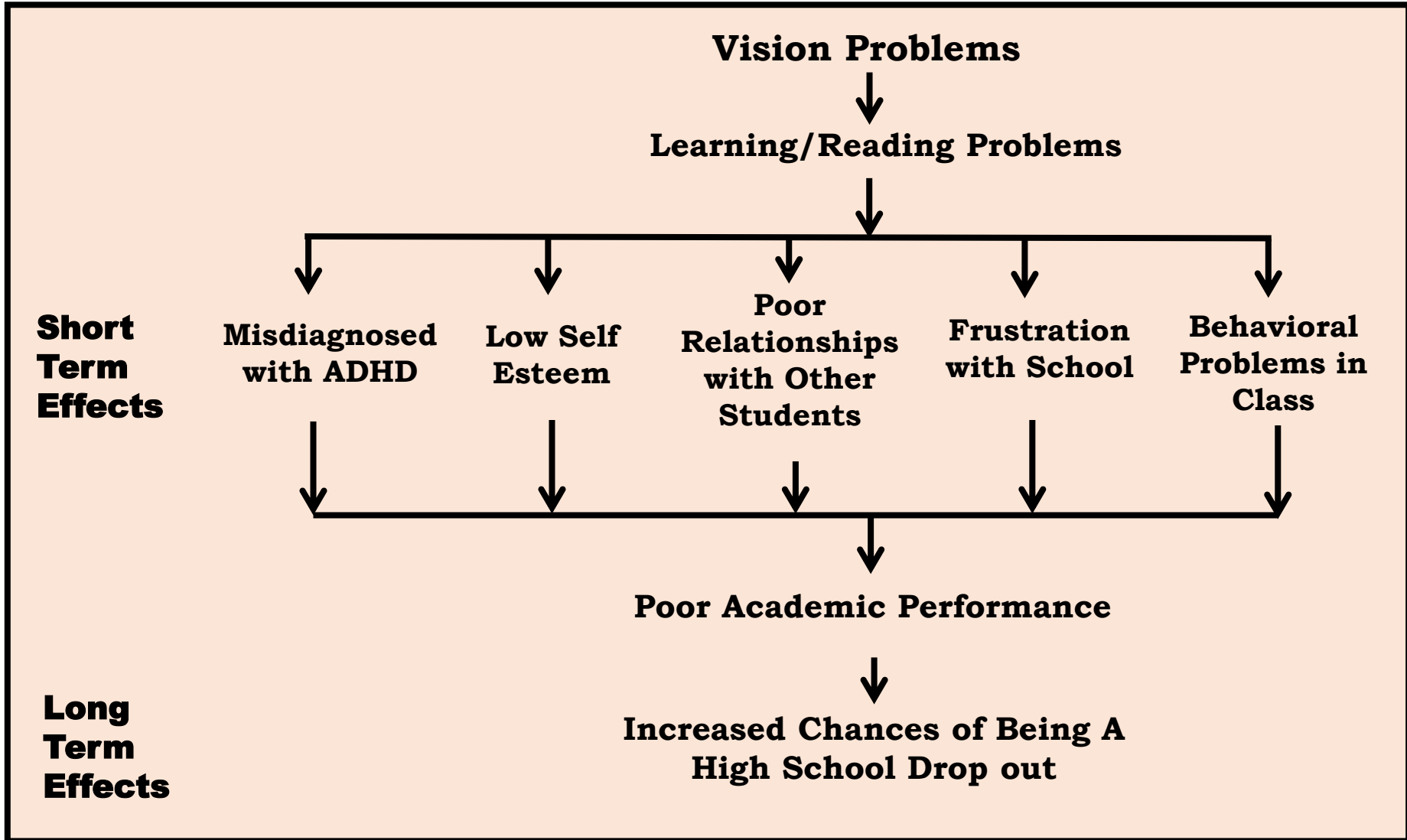
- ❑ Children's perception of their vision
 - ✓ Everyone sees like they do
 - ✓ Vision disorders don't hurt
 - ✓ Parents may not realize their child has a vision problem



- ❑ Children's vision development
 - ✓ Completed by age 7-8
 - ✓ Vision problems if not detected can possibly cause amblyopia and/or detrimentally impact a child's ability to learn
 - ✓ Normal visual development proceeds only if the brain receives an EQUALLY CLEAR image from EACH EYE
 - ✓ Studies show that 70% of children identified as "problem learners" actually suffer from undetected systemic and/or functional eye disorders. The child may be wrongly diagnosed as having attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD),⁹ or mislabeled as lazy, dyslectic, autistic, slow, or simply as a troublemaker.



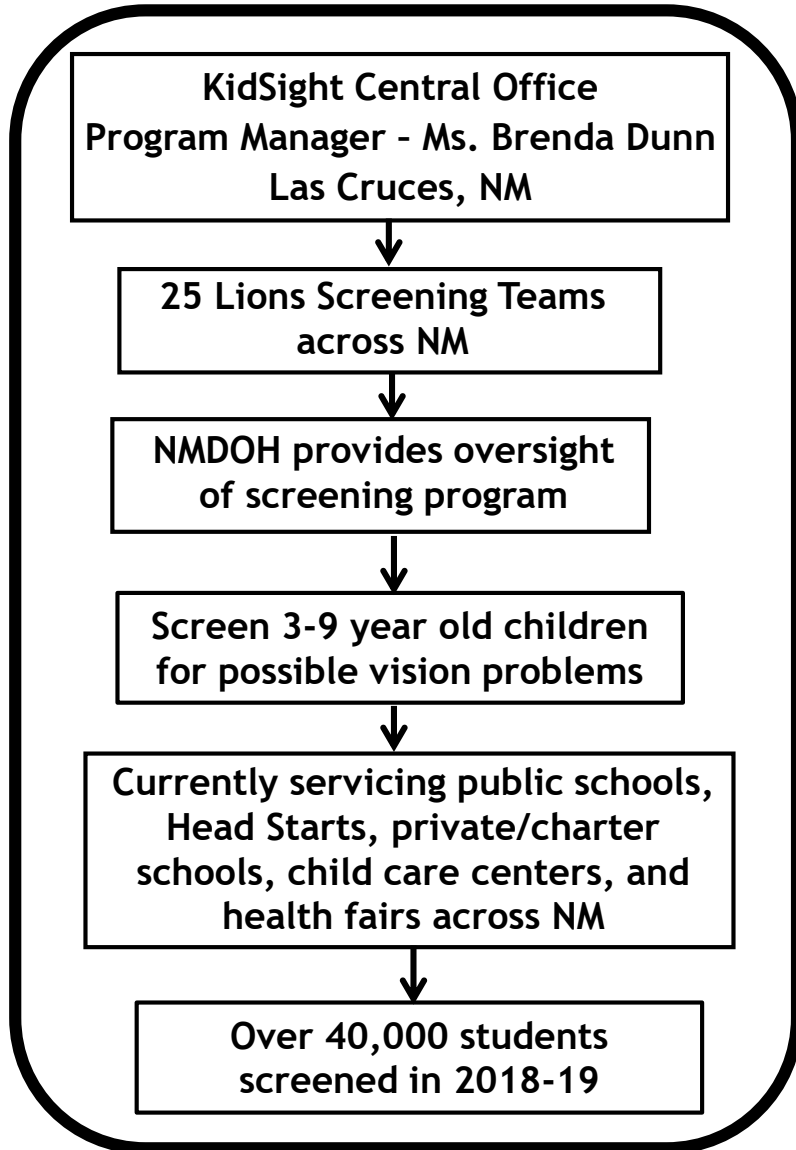
Effects of Unresolved Children's Vision & Learning Problems



NMLOKS Vision Screening Program



NM Lions Operation KidSight, Inc.



Addressing Functional Vision Problems

- ❑ In some cases where a 3-7 year old child has been screened and found to have good eye sight but has problems reading, NM Lions Crane Reading Foundation will assist the parents to set up an appointment with the nearest optometrist specializing in vision therapy.
- ❑ The NM Lions Crane Reading Foundation Program provides vision training to students using computer reading enhancement programs to enable them to enhance their reading proficiency (speed and comprehension) to their grade level or above.



For more information on the NM Lions Crane Reading Foundation, please contact:

George Mulholland
President
575-526-3708
georgemulholland@comcast.net

Cathy Waters
Reading Specialist
575-373-9075
catrog1@comcast.net

Enhancing Children's Healthy Vision

- Save Our Children's Sight Fund Voucher Program -













- ❑ **When Started:** 1 Jan 2008 based on NM Statute Authority 666.3.
- ❑ **How Funded:** NM residents can donate \$1 or \$5 when renewing vehicle registration.
- ❑ **Management of Fund:**
 - ✓ NMDOH provides oversight of the fund administration.
 - ✓ NMLOKS, Inc., contracted to administer the Fund through 2020.
- ❑ **Purpose of Fund:** To fund the development and implementation of a vision screening program making vision screenings and follow-up comprehensive examinations available to NM children regardless of family income.
- ❑ **Voucher Eligibility:** Students not covered by Medicaid or insurance.
- ❑ **Scope of Coverage:** NMLOKS Inc., covers 3-7 year old students with a grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield NM while the SOCSF covers 8-18 year old students.
- ❑ **Administration Strategy:**
 - ✓ NMLOKS, Inc., Program Manager and school nurses identify 3-18 year students who have been referred by nurse's or KidSight screenings and who are not covered by Medicaid or other insurance.
 - ✓ Voucher for eye exam and glasses issued for students who qualify.
 - ✓ NMLOKS, Inc., Program Manager coordinates with school nurses to provide the contact information for the closest network eye doctor to share with the parent(s) to schedule their child's appointment for services.
 - ✓ NMLOKS has established a network of over 100 vision services providers across NM who accept the NMDOG approved pay schedule of \$100/eye exam and \$75/pair of glasses.



Healthy Vision Awareness

- Parents Education Program -

- ❑ **Current Situation:** 35% to 40% of referred children from KidSight screenings never see an eye doctor regardless of how many times the school nurses call their parents.
- ❑ **Cause of Situation:** Many parents do not realize the importance of their child being able to see well to learn well.
- ❑ **Solution:** Beginning in the 2017-18 school year, the parents of each referred child in the state received an impressive folder with a copy of the screening results certificate and information explaining how important it is for their child to get an eye exam is included inside.
- ❑ **Intended Result:** It is envisioned the program will inform/encourage more parents of referred children get them the vision services they need.

<p>IMPORTANT IMPORTANTE</p>  <p>INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S VISION INFORMACIÒN ACERCA DE LA VISIÒN DE SU HIJO</p>			<p>Or if they are farsighted...like this! O si son clarividentes... como esta!</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Hyperopia (farsighted)</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Emmetropia (perfect vision)</p>  </div> </div> <p>Or nearsighted ...like this! O miope... como esta!</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Normal vision</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Miopia</p> </div> </div>
   	<p>HAVE QUESTIONS:</p> <p>Call: 575-525-5631 Fax: 575-524-1699 Email: nmlionskidsight@gmail.com Visit: www.nmlionskidsight.com</p> 	<p>YOUR CHILD SHOULD VISIT AN EYE DOCTOR SU NIÑO DEBE VISITAR A UN OCULISTA!</p> <p>Does your child see like this and you don't even know? Sabe su hijo ver como esta y no incluso?</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">  -VS-  </div>	 <p>New Mexico Lions Operation Kidsight, Inc. Brenda Dunn, Program Manager 1501 North Solano Drive Las Cruces, NM 88001 575-525-5631 FAX: 575-524-1699 Email: nmlionskidsight@gmail.com</p>

Healthy Vision Awareness - Smart Parents Contest -



ENTER TO WIN!!!



You have 30 days from today to enter!

Take your child to the eye doctor for their recommended dilated eye exam and enter to win \$50!

The drawing will be held on the 20th of each month.

Entries must be received by the 15th of each month to be entered!

A copy of the exam results are required with entry form!

Child's Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Parents Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

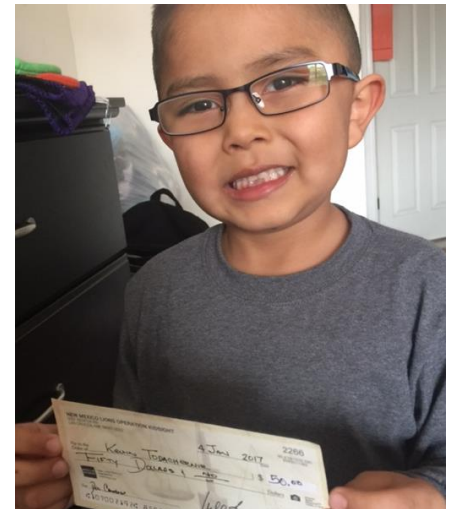
Scan Your Entry Form and Child's Exam Results and Email them to: nmlionskidsight@gmail.com or

Mail to: NMLOKS 1501 N. Solano Drive

Las Cruces 88001



- Monthly contest is an incentive for parents to take their referred children to get an eye exam.
- Once a parent takes their child for an eye exam, they fill out the contest form in the parental folder and submit it to the NMLOKS Central Office and they are eligible to win \$50 if their name is drawn.



Healthy Vision Awareness

- Teachers & Parents Vision Problem Identification -

- ❑ If parents wear glasses or had vision problems as a child, their children are more likely to have vision problems too.
- ❑ Teachers and parents spend a lot of time with the children for whom they are responsible. They should be able to identify warning signs that a child may have a vision problem. Symptoms of children's vision problems:

Headache or eye strain when reading	Eyes are sensitive to light
Blurred vision	Eyes frequently tear up
Dislike or avoidance of reading/home work	Receives lower grades than normal
Short attention span during visual tasks	Squints or tilts head to see the board better
Eyelid that covers part of the pupil	Uses finger as a guide when reading
Placing the head very close to the book or desk when reading or writing	Difficulty remembering, identifying or reproducing shapes
Excessive blinking or rubbing the eyes	Poor eye-hand coordination
Frequently loses their place when reading	Slow reading speed
Poor reading comprehension	Difficulty remembering what was read
Has eyes that look mismatched or crossed or that don't move together.	Turning or tilting the head to use one eye only, or closing or covering one eye

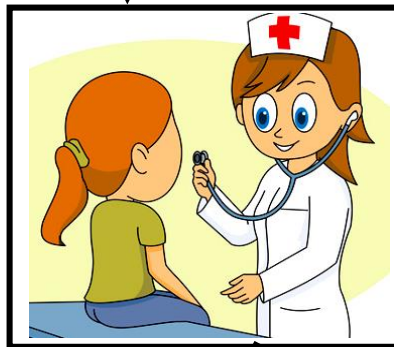
- ✓ Vision problem symptom noticed by a teacher → notify school nurse immediately.
- ✓ Vision problem symptom noticed by a parent → get child an eye exam immediately.

Healthy Vision Awareness

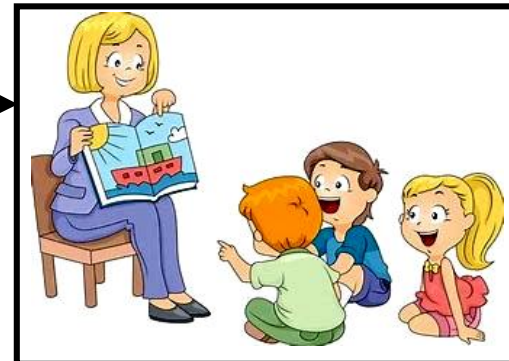
Teacher's Involvement in Addressing Parental Non-Compliance



Child referred by KidSight vision screening.
Nurse receives referral follow-up form from screening team.



Nurse sends a copy of the referral follow up form to the child's teacher



Nurse informs parents to get their referred child an eye exam.



Teacher makes special attempt to encourage parents to get their referred child an eye exam.

Healthy Vision Awareness

- Healthy Lifestyle for Healthy Eyes -

❑ Healthy Diet

- ✓ Include vegetables especially leafy green ones (spinach, broccoli, and kale), fish, nuts, avocados, egg yolks, and orange juice in diet.
- ✓ Stay hydrated.



❑ Playing and Exercising

- ✓ Spend time playing or exercising. Healthy vision development requires activities where the eyes are refocusing.
- ✓ Wear sunglasses when outside.

❑ Staring at Screens

- ✓ Limit the time a child continuously looks at a computer, iPhone, iPad, etc.
- ✓ Many eye doctors who specialize in children's vision say sustained computer use puts kids at higher risk for childhood myopia (nearsightedness).
- ✓ Sitting for hours in front of a computer screen or staring at a cell phone screen stresses a child's eyes because the computer forces the child's vision system to focus and strain a lot more than during any other task. Computer use stresses the eyes more than reading a because it's harder to maintain focus on computer-generated images than on printed images. This is especially true for young children whose visual system is not fully developed.

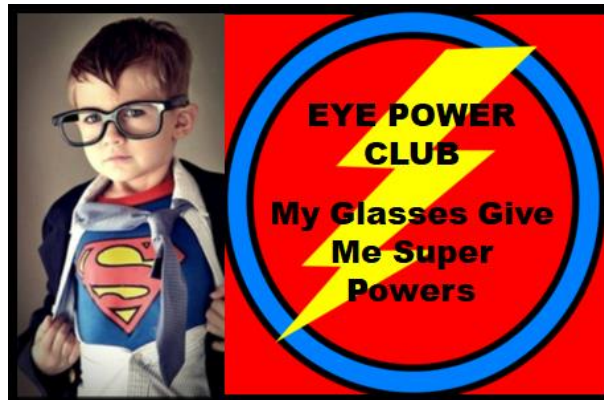


Healthy Vision Awareness

Healthy Vision Education for Children

Eye Power Clubs

- ✓ Many times children get glasses but do not wear them for various reason.
- ✓ Mission is to encourage all K, 1st and 2nd grade children with glasses to wear them
- ✓ Children who have just gotten their glasses and wear them every day for two weeks will be recognized with a certificate showing they are now a member of the Eye Power Club and a prize.
- ✓ Goal is to ensure that young children who need glasses feel comfortable wearing them and realize the “power” it gives them to read and learn.



Enhancing Healthy Vision Awareness

- Spare Pair Program -

- ❑ Many times during a vision screening session, a student is referred who has glasses but never (or infrequently) brings them to school.
- ❑ Provides a free pair of glasses to all Pre-K through 3rd grade students who never seem to be able to get their glasses to school. The glasses remain at school.
- ❑ The current glasses prescription is provided by the parents and the student picks out the frames they like. The glasses prescription and frames are sent to Essilor who makes the lenses and installs them in the frames. The glasses are then provided back to the student in less than two weeks.
- ❑ If the eye glasses prescription is older than a year, the student must have an eye exam.



Future Solutions

Mobile Vision Services

- ❑ A good number of students live in small remote communities in NM
- ❑ Vision services are often a considerable distance from these communities which may be a deterrent for parents of referred students to get them an eye exam
- ❑ A significant number of parents of referred children in communities with local vision services refuse to get them an eye exam
- ❑ A mobile vision services van would provide a comprehensive eye exam for referred students who otherwise would not receive one
- ❑ Funds from the KidSight and SOCSF Programs could be used to pay optometrists to conduct the eye exams in the van
- ❑ Glasses frames could be fitted the day of the exam and students could have their glasses in a week

