



Gladewater ISD Health Services

Vision Screenings

As part of the [Health and Safety Code, Chapter 36](#), the Vision Screening Program requires that all children enrolled for the first time in any public, private, parochial, or denominational school or in a Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) licensed childcare center and licensed childcare home in Texas, or who meet certain grade criteria, must be screened or have a professional examination for possible vision problems.

The [requirements for vision screening](#) apply each year for children enrolled in any licensed childcare center and licensed childcare home or school program at the ages or grades listed below:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 years old by September 1• Kindergartners• Any other first-time entrants (4 years* through 12th grade)	Within 120 days of admission
1st, 3rd, 5th and 7th graders	Anytime within the school year (preferably within the first semester)

A child may be exempt from screening if the child's parent or legal guardian does the following:

- Submits a record to the facility showing that the child's vision has been screened during the grade year in question or during the previous year.
- Submits documentation stating that a person other than the screener used by the facility shall conduct the screening as soon as is feasible. The child may be admitted into the facility on a provisional basis for up to 60 days, or the child may be denied admission, until the screening results are provided to the facility.
- Submits documentation stating that the screening conflicts with their religious beliefs or practices.



Gladewater ISD Health Services

Hearing Screenings

As part of the [Health and Safety Code, Chapter 36](#), the Hearing Screening Program requires that all children enrolled for the first time in any public, private, parochial, or denominational school or in a Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) licensed childcare center and licensed childcare home in Texas, or who meet certain grade criteria, must be screened or have a professional examination for possible hearing problems.

The [requirements for hearing screening](#) apply each year for children enrolled in any licensed childcare center and licensed childcare home or school program at the ages or grades listed below:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 years old by September 1 • Kindergartners • Any other first-time entrants (4 years* through 12th grade) 	<p>Within 120 days of admission</p>
<p>1st, 3rd, 5th and 7th graders</p>	<p>Anytime within the school year (preferably within the first semester)</p>

A child may be exempt from screening if the child's parent or legal guardian does the following:

- Submits a record to the facility showing that the child's hearing has been screened during the grade year in question or during the previous year.
- Submits documentation stating that a person other than the screener used by the facility shall conduct the screening as soon as is feasible. The child may be admitted into the facility on a provisional basis for up to 60 days, or the child may be denied admission, until the screening results are provided to the facility.
- Submits documentation stating that the screening conflicts with their religious beliefs or practices.



Gladewater ISD Health Services

Spinal Screenings

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Spinal Screening Program was established by the Texas Legislature to detect abnormal spinal curvature in students.

School-based spinal screening helps to identify adolescents with abnormal spinal curves and refer them for appropriate follow-up with their doctor. Screening can detect scoliosis at an early stage when the curve is mild and may go unnoticed. Early detection is key to controlling spinal deformities. Pre-screening letters will go out at least two weeks prior to the screening date.

Grade-based screening is considered an acceptable alternative to age-based screening in a school setting. The grades, however, must align with the professionally recommended ages so that most children are screened at the appropriate age, or as close to it as reasonably possible.

In compliance with the Health and Safety Code, Chapter 37, all children must undergo screening for abnormal spinal curvature per the following schedule:

- *Girls will be screened two times, once at age 10 (or fall semester of grade 5) and again at age 12 (or fall semester of grade 7).*
- *Boys will be screened one time at age 13 or 14 (or the fall semester of grade 8).*

Schools must identify exceptions (i.e., children promoted to higher grades or held back) and ensure their screenings align with appropriate ages rather than grades.

EXCEPTIONS AND EXEMPTIONS:

A student may be exempt from spinal screening if:

- The student is already actively under medical care by an appropriately licensed professional for one or more of the spinal problems for which spinal screening is performed. To claim this exception, the student must submit signed and dated documentation from the licensed professional to the school. The documentation must state that the student is under active, ongoing medical care for specific spinal problems.
- A student's parent or legal guardian executes an affidavit stating that spinal screening will be conducted by an individual other than the screener used by the school. The school may admit

the student on a provisional basis for up to 60 days. The school may deny admission until the screening record of the student is provided.

- The screening conflicts with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination of which the individual is a member. The parent or legal guardian must submit to the school an affidavit in lieu of the screening record stating the conflict. The affidavit must be submitted on or before the date spinal screening is scheduled.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES:

If, because of a physical condition, a student cannot stand in the manner necessary for the forward bend test, we do not attempt to screen that student. The school nurse should contact and inform the student's parent or legal guardian that the child is at the age at which he or she should receive the state-mandated spinal screening.