



# Hearing Screening Guidelines for Schools 2018

The University of the State of New York  
The State Education Department  
Office of Student Support Services





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## Purpose of a School Hearing Screening Program

The purpose of a hearing screening program is to identify students with potential hearing impairment that will require further follow up evaluation by a health care provider. Identifying students with possible hearing impairment which may

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the licensed health professional to whom it is delegated is trained in screening procedures. Additionally, the delegation should be in writing, with specific parameters of screening results or observations that are to be brought to the medical director's attention.

Commissioner's regulation §136.3 requires school health personnel to conduct pure tone screening. Pure tone screening is the measurement of the student's hearing sensitivity to calibrated pure tones measured in decibels, and sound frequencies measured in hertz (HZ). A pure-tone screening determines whether a person can detect sounds presented at a soft level (20 dB HL) at selected pitches (frequencies), from low to high. It is important that the screening procedures are standardized district wide.

### Who Should be Screened

Students in in grades Pre-K or Kindergarten, 1, 3, 5, 7 and 11 as well as newly enrolled students within six months of admission to the school. who did not have a hearing screening noted on their health certificate of health appraisal require screening in school. School health personnel should develop systems to track which students will need screening completed at school when filing a health certificate or appraisal in the student's cumulative health record. Other students to consider for a hearing screening include students referred to the Committee on Special Education (CSE) /Committee on Preschool Special Education





or unwanted sounds on the listening check require that an acoustical calibration be performed prior to use.

◁ **Acoustical Calibration:** The acoustical calibration must be performed at least **annually**. This is a more objective form of the functional check conducted using an acoustic calibration system. Output deviations of greater than 10 dB or any other unusual variations require that an exhaustive calibration be performed.

◁ **Exhaustive Calibration:** An exhaustive calibration should be conducted at least **every two years** in accordance with specific

tions require



# Conducting the Screening

Students should be screened individually and separately. Any students waiting to be screened should be at a separate location to avoid any additional noise or distractions for the student who is being screened.

## Prescreening Steps

Before screening, visually check to see if the student has drainage or excess cerumen (wax) coming from his/her ears. Do not screen the student if present. Document findings on the student's cumulative health record (CHR) and notify parent/guardian of need for follow up with private provider before screening can be completed.

The student should be seated in a comfortable manner not facing the audiometer, but where the screener is able to observe student responses. The screener should be cognizant of and avoid any cues they may inadvertently give, such as vocalizations and facial expressions. The screener should review the procedure with the student, including what the student's response task is to indicate a sound has been heard: such as raising a hand, finger, or saying yes. Young children are typically given a more play-like activity to indicate response. Conditioned play audiometry is commonly used with toddlers and preschoolers (ages 2–5). The student is trained to perform an activity each time a sound is heard. The activity may involve putting a block in a box, placing pegs in a hole, or putting a ring on a cone. Conditioning young children may require additional time and can also be completed with the headphones on the table before placing over the ears

Ask the student to push hair away from ears, and to remove eyeglasses, large earrings or other accessories that might interfere with the



## Notification

Per Commissioners regulation 136.3(e)(2) the results of any hearing screenings requiring a follow up with a health care provider must be provided in writing to the student's parent /guardian and to the student's teacher(s) while the student is enrolled in the school. To avoid unnecessarily alarming the student, or potential loss of the notice - the written notification should be mailed and not sent home with the student. Such notification should be in the parent's/guardian's primary language and must state the results of the screening and refer the parent to follow up with their health care provider. This notification should also include an evaluation form for the parent/guardian to take to the appointment and return the completed form to school. A sample form is available at [New York Center for School Health- Screening Guidelines and Resources](#) .

# School Considerations

## Signs and Symptoms of Hearing Loss

School personnel should know the signs and symptoms



