

Routine screenings are performed, in the elementary schools, by certified school nurses as part of a comprehensive health program required by New Jersey law.

### **Auditory Screenings**

Auditory screening is performed to identify students with any hearing loss that may impact their intellectual, emotional, social, speech, or language development. Even mild hearing losses may be educationally and medically significant. Auditory screenings are conducted for students who are:

- enrolled in pre-school
- enrolled in grades kindergarten through grade 3
- at risk for hearing impairments
- referred to the child study team for evaluation
- referred by a teacher, parent/guardian, or at the student's own request
- at risk for noise exposure

### **Blood Pressure**

Blood pressure in children can signal the possibility of serious underlying problems, such as heart or kidney disease. Identification of children who have elevated blood pressure will allow your child's physician to evaluate the cause and institute proper treatment to reduce their risk of cardiovascular disease as they grow into adulthood.

Blood pressure screenings are conducted annually on students in kindergarten through grade 6.

### **Height and Weight**

Height and weight measurements allow the school nurse to identify and refer those children who do not appear to be growing normally. In addition, height and weight measurements can be used as an educational tool to create an awareness of the relationship between good nutrition and appropriate growth and development.

Height and weight measurements are conducted annually on students in kindergarten through grade 6.

### **Scoliosis**

Scoliosis is a lateral curvature of the spine most commonly detected during the adolescent growth period. It is estimated that between 5% and 10% of school children have such a curvature to varying degrees. However, only 2% of these curvatures are significant. If someone in the family has scoliosis, the likelihood of incidence rises to approximately 20%. Students diagnosed with scoliosis should be under the care and supervision of a physician or orthopedist. Scoliosis screenings are conducted for students:

- every other school year starting at age 10

### **Vision**

In order to detect visual impairment, the vision screening process is essential for children enrolled in the school. Vision problems affect the development, adjustment, and achievement of the child. National studies indicate that 20% to 25% of children aged 5-14 have vision problems that require professional eye care. School screening programs focus on visual acuity and color discrimination and are designed only to identify students who may need further evaluation. Acuity at a distance screenings are performed on students who are:

- enrolled in pre-school
- enrolled in grades kindergarten, 2, 4, 6
- at risk for vision disorders
- referred to the child study team for evaluation
- referred by a teacher, parent/guardian, or at the student's own request

The muscle balance test estimates the corneal light reflex from the center of the pupil of the eye. Muscle balance is tested on students who are:

- enrolled in kindergarten

The near vision test measures the ability to see at 8 to 10 inches. Near vision is tested on students who are:

- referred by a teacher, parent/guardian, or at the student's own request

Color deficiency is tested on students who are:

- enrolled in grade 1