



2018 Spinal Screening Manual Addendum

Add this document to your screening manual.

Why is there a change?

In the 2017 Texas Legislative session, House Bill 1076 was signed into law by the Governor. House Bill 1076 allows DSHS to consider the most recent, nationally-accepted, peer-reviewed recommendations when considering appropriate age for conducting mandatory spinal screening.

In 2015 four nationally-recognized organizations made the following joint statement: “screening examinations for spine deformity should be part of the medical home preventative services visit for females at age 10 and 12 years, and males once at age 13 or 14 years.”

What is the change?

Females should be screened at age 10 and 12 years, and males once at age 13 or 14 years. Students are no longer screened by grade.

When does this change go into effect?

Starting in School Year 2018-2019

Are there exceptions?

Yes:

- The school has documentation from a licensed professional that the individual is actively under medical care for one or more spinal problems.
- The school has documentation that the screening was performed by a qualified individual at the appropriate age.
- The school has an acceptable affidavit stating one of the following:
 - 1) The spinal screening will be conducted by a qualified individual outside the school. The parent or guardian must then provide proof the screening has occurred within 60 days of the signed affidavit.
 - 2) The spinal screening conflicts with religious tenets.

How does this change affect the spinal screening manual?

All references to screening grades should be omitted and substituted with, “screening females at age 10 and 12 years, and males once at age 13 or 14 years” on the following pages: pp.iii, 1, 5, 25, 26, 33, 34, 35, 36, 40, 41, 48, 57, 58