

Newman International Academy Screening Notification

Vision and Hearing

Texas law mandates vision and hearing screening for students in EC, PK, K, 01, 03, 05 and 07 as well as students in other grades who are new to Newman International Academy or the state. Vision and hearing screenings are conducted throughout the year or within 120 days of a student's enrollment. Parents of students who fail two vision screenings or two hearing screenings will receive a referral letter from the school nurse recommending a more comprehensive exam by an eye doctor, audiologist, or physician.

Spinal Screening

Texas law mandates spinal screening for:

- 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 fall semester of grade 8**).

The screening takes place in a private environment by certified screeners and/or school nurses. Parents of students who have positive findings will receive a referral letter from the school nurse recommending a more comprehensive exam by a physician. The purpose of spinal screening is to detect the signs of abnormal curves of the spine at their earliest stages so that the need for treatment can be determined. Scoliosis, a common spinal abnormality found in adolescents, is a sideways twisting of the spine. It is usually detected in children between ten and fourteen years of age. Kyphosis, sometimes called round back, is an exaggerated rounding of the upper back and is often confused with poor posture. Many cases of curvature of the spine are mild and require only ongoing observation by a physician when they are first diagnosed. Others can worsen with time as the child grows and require active treatment such as bracing or surgery. Early treatment can prevent the development of a severe deformity, which can affect a person's health and appearance.

Acanthosis Nigricans (AN)

Texas law mandates this screening for students in grades 01, 03, 05 and 07 in conjunction with the vision and hearing screenings. If an AN marker is noted, the student will have blood pressure, height and weighted measured individually in a private setting. Parents of students who have positive findings will receive a referral letter from the school nurse recommending a more comprehensive exam by a physician. The purpose of the screening is to detect a linear, darkened skin color change that usually appears on the back of the neck. This marker is called Acanthosis Nigricans and is caused by too much insulin in the blood. It is a pre-diabetic condition and serves as an indicator of risk for Type 2 diabetes. Acanthosis Nigricans is usually seen during the preadolescence and adolescence years.

If you have any questions about screenings or would like to request an exemption, please contact the Health Staff on your child's campus.