# Superintendent’s Memo #217-20


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: August 21, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

## SUBJECT: Vision Screening Grant for Fiscal Year 2021

Good vision is a critical component to students’ learning success in school. Section 22.1-273, *Code of Virginia*, regarding annual vision screenings of students requires school principals to ensure the vision testing of students in kindergarten, grades two or three, and grades seven and ten, and establishes quality standards for implementing a “comprehensive vision program.”

Given the prevalence of student vision problems, particularly among high-needs students, the General Assembly has continued to appropriate state funds for fiscal year (FY) 2021 to support technology-based comprehensive vision screenings as defined in the *Code* to eligible school divisions, defined as those schools and/or divisions with 40 percent or more of students eligible for free lunch. $391,000 in state funding is appropriated for FY 2021. Funds will be provided to school divisions after confirmation that the vision screening services have been provided in the division.

School divisions with 40 percent or more of students eligible for free lunch, as listed in Attachment A, are eligible for the state-funded comprehensive vision screening program during fiscal year 2021, subject to statewide demand and the availability of funding.

School boards may enter into contracts with “qualified nonprofit vision health organizations” for the purpose of conducting the mandatory annual vision screenings, pursuant to subsections F., G., and H. of Section 22.1-273, *Code of Virginia*. Eligible school divisions may be contacted by such organizations regarding conducting the required vision screenings during the 2020-2021 school year.

If you have additional questions, contact Kent Dickey, Deputy Superintendent of Budget, Finance, and Operations, at kent.dickey@doe.virginia.gov.

JFL/KCD/cle

Attachment

A. [Forty percent or Greater Free Lunch](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2020/217-20a.xlsx)