

HB 455 -- Sensory Processing Disorder

Sponsor: Hodges

This bill requires, beginning in the 2012-2013 school year, every public school district to screen its students for Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD) before the end of first grade and again before the end of third grade. The screening method must be approved by the newly established Children's Commission on Sensory Processing Disorder within the Department of Health and Senior Services and must be performed by an appropriately trained school employee. The screening results, with all individual identifying information removed, must be sent to the department to compile the data for review and analysis by the commission or other interested parties.

If a student fails the screening, the school district must notify the student's parents or guardians of the results and propose that the student undergo a complete physical examination by a physician or doctor of osteopathy. The notice must have a place for the parent's acknowledgment of receipt and an indication of whether the student received a complete physical examination and its results. Any physical examination within the year preceding the school screening will be sufficient for fulfilling the requirements of the bill. If a parent or guardian objects to the screening, the child will be excused upon receipt of a written request to the appropriate school administrator. The screening and its information is not a violation of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and the department must make a reasonable accommodation for public review and inspection of the data if no information is revealed that could identify any individual student.

The commission will consist of five members appointed by the Governor including two physicians, a school nurse, and one representative each from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Missouri School Boards Association. It must analyze and adopt at least one screening test; develop, in conjunction with the department, a standardized reporting form; design and coordinate appropriate training programs for school district staff who conduct the screenings; and conduct a pilot project to track the results of the screenings versus the examinations.