

FORT WORTH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Health Services Department

Spinal Screening Letter to Parents

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The school nurse will be conducting spinal screening on female students in 5th and 7th grades, and males in 8th grade. 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 10 and 14 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 and surgery. Early treatment can prevent the development of a severe deformity which can affect a person's appearance and health.

The procedure for screening is simple. The school nurse, who has been specially trained, will look at your child's back while he/she stands and then bends forward. For this examination, boys and girls will be seen separately and individually.

Parents will be notified of the results of the screening only if professional follow-up is necessary. This screening procedure does not replace your child's need for regular health care and check-ups.

According to state law, all females in 5th and 7th grades, and males in 8th grade must receive the spinal screening. If, for religious reasons, you do not wish to have your child screened, you are to submit an affidavit of exemption to the nurse's office no later than November 1, 2022

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

School Nurse

Principal

10/21/2022
Date