

SCHOOL HEARING SCREENING: STATE LAWS AND GUIDELINES

This document provides an overview of state school hearing screening laws and regulations. It is presented to guide members on requirements that may affect their practice. Information provided by ASHA does not supersede the clinical, legal, or financial judgment of the practitioner. The information provided in this resource is not and should not be construed as legal advice, which can only be provided by an attorney.

There is no single federal mandate for childhood hearing screenings. However, current federal legislation supports the goal of identifying children most likely to have a hearing loss that may interfere with communication and affect academic performance and success. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 2004 requires school districts to identify, locate, and evaluate all children with disabilities [20 U.S.C. §1412(a) (3)]. It further requires states to have a comprehensive Child Find system that ensures standards for appropriately identifying infants and toddlers with disabilities that will reduce the need for future services [20 U.S.C. §1435 (a) (5)].

If you have any additional questions about school hearing screening requirements in your state, please contact Tim Boyd, director of state health care and education affairs, at tboyd@asha.org.

References: This document incorporates information collected from current state statutes/regulations and from the following sources:

1. National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). (n.d.). *State Policy Database: Health Policies by Category*. Retrieved July 2024 from <https://statepolicies.nasbe.org/health/categories>
2. Worthington, M., Partain, M., & Thomas, M. (August 2019). State-by-State Trends in School-Age Hearing Screening. *The Hearing Journal* 72(8):p 20,21. https://journals.lww.com/thehearingjournal/fulltext/2019/08000/state_by_state_trends_in_school_age_hearing.6.aspx#

	Does state law mandate hearing screenings in public schools?	Does the state have school hearing screening guidelines?	Are grade levels specified?	Do state guidelines include testing procedures?	Do state guidelines specify follow-up with an audiologist or other hearing health provider?	Citation and link to state guidelines/resources
AL	Mandate not found in state law	None found	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	AL Code § 16-29-1 (2017) Repealed.
AK	Yes	Yes	Recommended only: pre-K, K, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th and 10th	Recommended only; frequencies: 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz; intensity: 20 dB HL	Recommended only; audiologist not specified	AK Stat § 14.30.127 (2023) State of Alaska: Hearing Screening Guidelines for the Pre-School/School Population

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AZ	Yes	Yes	First entry into the school system; pre-K, K, 1st, 2nd, 6th, and 9th; all other grades can opt out with written documentation (see exemptions)	Mandated; pure-tone hearing screening at 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz at 20 dB HL <u>OR</u> tympanometry and pure-tone screening (same criteria as above) <u>OR</u> OAEs at ≥ 3 test frequencies*	Yes; referral to audiologist depends on screening used	9 A.A.C. 13 School nursing resources
AR	State law authorizes school screening but does not appear to mandate it	Yes	Not specified	School reporting form indicates 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz at 20 dB HL	School reporting form specifies referral to a student's physician	DOH Resources (w/ reporting form) AR Code § 6-18-701
CA	Yes	Yes	First entry into the school system; K, 1st, 2nd, 5th, 8th, and 10th	Mandated; frequencies: 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz; intensity: 25 dB HL	Mandated; specifies audiologic and medical intervention	Cal. Code Regs. tit. 17 § 2951 Manual For the School Audiometrist
CO	Yes	Yes	K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 7th, and 9th	Recommended only; grades K-5th: pure-tone hearing screening at 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz at 20 dB HL; grades 6 and up: pure-tone hearing screening at 1000, 2000, 4000, and 6000 Hz at 20 dB HL	Recommended only; specifies physician or audiologist	Guidelines For Childhood & Youth Hearing Screening Programs CRS 22-1-116
CT	Yes	Yes	K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th	Mandated; frequencies: 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz; intensity: 25 dB HL	Mandated; specifies audiologic and medical referrals	GSC Ch. 169, 10-206 Conn. Agencies Regs. § 10-214-3 Guidelines for Health Screenings
DE	Yes	None found	K, 2nd, 4th, 7th, 9th, and 10th	Not specified	Not specified	DAC 14-800-815

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DC	Mandate not found in state law	None found	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	-
FL	Yes	Yes	First entry into K-5; K, 1st, 6th	Recommended only; frequencies: 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz at 20 dB HL	Not specified	FAC 64F-6.003 FL Guidelines
GA	Yes	None found	First entry into the school system; no grade requirements	Recommended only; frequencies: 500, 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz; intensities: 20 or 25 dB HL	Not specified	GA 511-5-6-.02 Form 3300
HI	Mandate not found in state law	None found	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	-
ID	Mandate not found in state law	None found	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	-
IL	Yes	Yes	Required in pre-K (3+) and K-3rd; recommended in 4th, 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th	Mandated; frequencies: 500-4000 Hz; intensity: 25 dB HL/35 dB HL	Mandated; audiologist not specified	IAC 77-675.110 Section 675 (ilga.gov) IDH Resources
IN	Yes	None found	1st, 4th, 7th, and 10th	Not specified	Not specified	IC 20-34-3-14 State Memo.
IA	Mandate not found in state law	None found	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	-
KS	Yes	None found	First entry into school and not less than once every three years thereafter	Recommended only; grades K-3rd: pure-tone hearing screening at 500, 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz at 20 dB HL; grades 4 and up: Pure-tone hearing screening at 1000, 2000, 4000, and 6000 Hz at 20 dB HL	Recommended only; audiologist not specified	KS 72-6229 Kansas Guidelines for Hearing Screening

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KY	Yes	None found	Within one year of entry into the school system; within one year after entry into 6th grade	Not specified	Not specified	702 KAR :160
LA	Yes	None found	In the first semester after entry into the school system	Not specified	Not specified	RS 17:2112
ME	Yes	Yes	Pre-K, K, 1st, 3rd, and 5th	Mandated; frequencies: 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz; intensity: 25 dB HL	Mandated; audiologist not specified	CMR 05-071-045 DOE Guidelines
MD	Yes	Yes	First entry into school; 1st and 8th or 9th	Recommended only; frequencies: 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz; intensity: 20 dB HL	Recommended only; specifies medical/audiologic evaluation	Hearing Screening Guidelines CMR 13A..05.05.07
MA	Yes	Yes	First entry into school; K-3rd; once, 6th-8th; once, 9th-12th	Mandated; frequencies: 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz; intensity: 20 dB HL	Recommended only; audiologist not specified	Mass Hearing Screening Protocol Massachusetts Regs. Code tit. 105 §200
MI	Yes	Yes	Pre-K, K, 2nd, and 4th	Recommended only; frequencies: 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz; intensities: 20 dB HL at 1000-2000 Hz and 25 dB HL at 4000 Hz	Recommended only; audiologist not specified	Mich. Admin. Code R. 325.3274 Michigan Hearing Screening Program
MN	Yes	Yes	First entry into K	Mandated for students younger than 11, recommended for students 11 and up; frequencies: 500, 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz (and 6000 Hz for students 11 and up);	Does not specify a referral to audiologist or medical provider	Minnesota Stat. §121A.17 School hearing Screening Worksheet

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				intensities: 25 dB HL at 500 Hz, 20 dB HL		
MS	Mandate not found in state law	None found	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	Miss. Code Ann. § 41-79-5 Mississippi School Nurse Procedures and Standard of Care
MO	Mandate not found in state law	Yes	Recommended only: pre-K, K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 7th; all new students	Recommended only; frequencies: 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz; intensity: 20 dB HL	Recommended only; audiologist not specified	Guidelines for Hearing Screening in the School Setting
MT	Yes	Yes	K, 1st, 9th or 10th	Recommended only; frequencies: 500, 1000, and 2000 Hz; no intensity specified	Mandated; specifies referral to audiologist or medical provider	Administrative Rules of Montana 37.111.825 Guidelines for an Educational Hearing Conservation Program
NE	Yes	Yes	Age 3 through 3rd grade	Recommended only; frequencies: 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz; intensity: 20 dB HL	Mandated; specifies medical referral	Nebraska Revised Statute 79-248 to 249 School Health Screenings
NV	Yes	None found	Before first year of enrollment; one other grade in ES; one other grade in MS and HS	Not specified	Mandated; specifies medical referral	NRS 392.420
NH	Mandate not found in state law	Yes	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	New Hampshire Health Screenings Guidance
NJ	Yes	Yes	K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 7th, and 11th	Recommended only; frequencies: 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz; intensity: 20 dB HL	Recommended only; audiologist not specified	NJAC §6A:16-2.2 Promoting Health and Learning: School Nursing Practice in New Jersey's Public Schools

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NM	Mandate not found in state law	None found	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	-
NY	Yes	Yes	Pre-K, K, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, and 10th/11th	Recommended only; frequencies: 500, 1000, 2000, 3000, and 4000 Hz; 6000 and 8000 Hz for 7th and 11th grade intensities: 20 dB HL or 25 dB HL	Mandated; specifies medical referral	Hearing Screening Guidelines for Schools 2018 8 CRR-NY 136.3
NC	Yes	Yes	Pre-K	Recommended only; frequencies: 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz; intensity: 20 dB HL	Recommended only; specifies referral to audiologist	Chapter 130A. Public Health § 130A-440 DPI Hearing Screening Guidance for Preschool-12th grade
ND	Mandate not found in state law	Yes	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	Health Guidelines for Entering Schools
OH	Yes	Yes	K, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 9th, and 11th	Recommended only; frequencies: 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz; intensity: 20 dB HL	Mandated; specifies referral to audiologist or medical provider	2022 Hearing Screening Guidelines and Requirements Section 3313.69
OK	Mandate not found in state law	Yes	Recommended only: age 3 through 3rd grade; grades 4+ should be screened at 3-year intervals	Recommended only; frequencies: 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz; intensity: 20 dB HL	Recommended only; specifies referral to audiologist or medical provider	Guidelines: A School Hearing Screening Program

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OR	Yes	Yes	First entry into school; pre-K to 3rd grade, 7th, and 11th	Recommended only; frequencies: 500, 1000, and 4000 Hz; intensity: 20 dB HL	Recommended only; specifies referral to audiologist or medical provider	OAR 581-022-0705 Oregon School Nurse Manual
PA	Yes	Yes	K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 7th, and 11th	Recommended only; frequencies: 250, 500, 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz; intensity: 25 dB HL	Recommended only; specifies referral to physician or hearing specialist	28 Pa. Code §23.5 PA: Hearing Screen Checklist
RI	Yes	Yes	First entry into school; pre-K, K, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd	Mandated; the screening must consist of an initial otoacoustics emission hearing test; students who fail initial screen must be re-screened within four weeks with tympanometry and pure tone	Mandated; specifies referral to audiologist or medical provider	School Health Programs (216-RICR-20-10-4) Rhode Island's Guidelines for Implementing Child Outreach Screening
SC	Mandate not found in state law	Yes	Recommended only: K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, and 7th	Recommended only; frequencies: 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz; intensity: 20 dB HL	Recommended only; specifies referral for an audiologic evaluation	Hearing Screening in School Settings
SD	Mandate not found in state law	None found	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	-
TN	Mandate not found in state law	Yes	Recommended only: pre-K, K, 2nd, 4th, 6th, and 8th	Recommended only; frequencies: 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz; intensity: 20 dB HL	Recommended only; specifies audiologist	School Health Screening Guidelines
TX	Yes	Yes	First entry into school; 4 years old, K, 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th	Mandated; frequencies: 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz; intensity: 25 dB HL	Mandated; specifies referral to licensed professional	Texas Administrative Code Ch 36: Sec. 36.004 Hearing Screening Requirements

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UT	Yes	None found	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	Utah Code 53G-9-402P
VT	Yes	Yes	Recommended only: pre-K, K, 1st, 3rd, and 5th	Recommended only; frequencies: 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz; adolescent screenings: 6000 and 8000 Hz; intensity: 20 dB HL	Recommended only; specifies referral to audiologist or ENT	Standards of Practice: School health Screenings 16 V.S.A. § 1422
VA	Yes	Yes	First entry into school; K, 2nd or 3rd, 7th, and 10th	Mandated; frequencies: 500, 1000, and 4000 Hz; intensity: 20 dB HL	Mandated; specifies referral to audiologist or medical provider	8VAC20-250-10 School Hearing Screening Guidelines
WA	Yes	Yes	K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, and 7th	Mandated; frequencies: 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz; intensity: 20 dB HL	Mandated; specifies referral to medical professional and audiologist	WAC 246-760-020 Auditory Screening Standards for Washington Schools
WV	Yes	None found	First entry into school	Not specified	Mandated; specifies referral to qualified professional	West Virginia Code § 18-5-17
WI	Mandate not found in state law	Yes	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	Wisconsin Health Screenings and Appraisals
WY	Mandate not found in state law	None found	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	-

*Pass criteria determined by equipment