

**From:** Catherine Carter  
**To:** [Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education](#)  
**Subject:** Change to vision wording  
**Date:** Monday, September 10, 2018 7:16:00 PM

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Dear Chair Kirwan,

Let Them See Clearly would like to thank the Group 4 of the Commission for adding vision services as a recommendation for addressing the needs of at risk students. We are glad that the Group sees the importance of ensuring better identification and access to vision care for the 25% of students and 70% of students receiving special education services who struggle can see clearly.

However, the terminology "vision and dental screenings" is incorrect. Vision screenings are already mandated by state law for new students, 1st grade, and 8/9th grade which are not exams or provide any vision care and misses identifying 50-75% of vision disorders.

The correct term would be "**vision and dental care services**." Several Maryland schools have initiated providing students who lack access to vision care services eye exams and glasses such as Vision for Baltimore.

We hope to build on our the successes from the 2018 legislative session with passage of the Atticus Act and Screening Reporting Bill. We are working with lawmakers and stakeholders on Maryland and federal legislation to enable more schools to form vision care partnerships similar to dental because no student who struggles to see clearly should lack vision care.

Once again thank you and the Commission for your work on the needs of our students.

4. A fixed amount would be provided for each school in which at least X% of students are eligible for free or reduced price meals. This fixed funding would be used to hire a community schools coordinator and a health services practitioner. In addition to the fixed amount of funding would be an amount per student enrolled at the school. This per pupil funding (in combination with the compensatory education funding formula) could be used to provide programs and services. This would include, but not be limited to:

- a) additional extended learning time including before and after school;
- b) safe transportation to school;
- c) vision and dental care services;**