

State of California

Department of Education

## LAST MINUTE MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** January 5, 2004  
**TO:** MEMBERS, STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
**FROM:** Sue Stickel, Deputy Superintendent  
Curriculum and Instruction Branch  
**RE:** Item 17  
**SUBJECT:** Vision Testing: Approve Commencement of the Rulemaking Process for  
Proposed Amendments to Title 5 Code of Regulations

Please insert the following corrected versions of pages 3-4 for Attachment 3. This correction:

- 1) Deletes the following text from Section 594, lines 10-14 on attachment 3, page 3:  
“Conduct of the test and the testing environment shall conform to procedures and settings as described in guidelines ~~the most recent edition of “A Guide for Vision Testing in California Public Schools.”~~ issued by the California Department of Education.” and
- 2) Adds an *Education Code* Section 33308.5 reference on attachment 3, page 4, line 4.

**Attachment 3:** Proposed Amendments to the California Code of Regulations Title 5 (Pages 3-4)

1 Each school district and county superintendent of schools shall determine and be  
2 responsible for the eligibility of personnel employed or permitted by the district or county  
3 superintendent of schools to administer ~~eye screening~~ vision tests or to conduct inservice  
4 training programs in techniques and procedures in administering such tests.

5 NOTE: Authority cited: Section 33031, Education Code. Reference: Section 49452.

6 **§594. Examination-Test of Visual Acuity.**

7 (a) ~~The following definitions shall apply to terms used in~~ test of visual acuity  
8 administered pursuant to Education Code Sections 49452 and 49455. ~~The examination of~~  
9 ~~visual acuity~~ shall mean a test for visual acuity at the far point. This shall be conducted by  
10 means of ~~the Snellen Test~~ an optotype test. ~~Conduct of the test and the testing environment~~  
11 ~~shall conform to procedures and settings described in the most recent edition of "A Guide for~~  
12 ~~Vision Testing in California Public Schools."~~ ~~Consistent with the requirements of Education~~  
13 ~~Code Section 33308.5, the California Department of Education may prepare and periodically~~  
14 ~~update program guidelines relating to vision testing.~~ Test failure for the initial vision-visual  
15 acuity test shall be defined as follows:

16 (a~~1~~) For children under six years of age: ~~Vision-Visual~~ Visual acuity of 20/50 or worse. The  
17 designation 20/50 or worse indicates the inability to identify accurately the majority of letters  
18 or symbols on the 40-foot line of the test chart at a distance of 20 feet.

19 (b~~2~~) For children six years of age or older: Visual acuity of 20/40 or worse. This means  
20 the inability to identify the majority of letters or symbols on 30-foot line of the chart.

21 (c~~3~~) For all children: A difference of visual acuity between the two eyes of two lines on  
22 the ~~Snellen Chart~~ optotype chart. This means, for example, visual acuity of 20/20 in one eye  
23 and 20/40 in the other or 20/30 in one eye and 20/50 in the other.

24 (b) If a pupil fails a visual acuity test that is conducted by an employee authorized to give  
25 vision tests pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 591, Following failure of the initial vision  
26 acuity screening test, a reevaluation shall be accomplished-conducted prior to referral for  
27 definitive professional evaluation a report being made to the pupil's parent or guardian. This  
28 reevaluation shall be ~~done by persons~~ conducted by an employee authorized to give vision  
29 tests pursuant to subdivision as per Section 591(a) of this Article-Section 591.

1 (c) If a pupil fails a visual acuity test conducted by an employee authorized to give vision  
2 tests pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 591, a report shall be made to the pupil's parent  
3 or guardian as required by Education Code Section 49456.

4 NOTE: Authority cited: Section 33031, Education Code. Reference: Sections 33308.5, 49452,  
5 49455, and 49456, Education Code.

6 **§595. Examination-Appraisal of Color Vision.**

7 The ~~examination-appraisal~~ of color vision ~~as used in~~ male pupils pursuant to Education  
8 Code Sections 49452 and 49455 shall mean a test employing pseudoisochromatic plates.  
9 Procedures and criteria of failure as described by the manufacturer shall be used.

10 NOTE: Authority cited: Section 33031, Education Code. Reference: Sections 49452 and 49455,  
11 Education Code.

12 **§596. Gross External Observation of the Children's Eyes, Visual Performance and**  
13 **Perception.**

14 Gross external observation of the children's eyes, visual performance and perception, as  
15 ~~used in~~ pursuant to Education Code Sections 49452 and 49455, shall mean continuous  
16 observation by teachers of the appearance, behavior and complaints of pupils that might  
17 indicate vision problems. Also, periodic investigation where pupils' school performance  
18 begins to give evidence that existence of the problem might be caused by a visual difficulty.  
19 Such an evaluation shall be done in consultation with the school nurse.

20 NOTE: Authority cited: Section 33031, Education Code. Reference: Sections 49452 and 49455,  
21 Education Code.