



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New Yorkers join to support initiatives that raise awareness of critically important issues regarding children's health, and those related to vision begin with a reminder for parents and guardians to include regular eye examinations as part of a child's pre-school age healthcare routine; and

Whereas, at this time, children across New York State are preparing for the start of a new school year, however, many of them will begin their studies with undiagnosed and untreated vision-related learning problems that can lead to early reading difficulties; it is estimated that 18 million children will not have an eye examination by a licensed eye doctor by the time they enter school; and

Whereas, research shows that as many as one out of every four children is at risk for having vision problems that can cause difficulty and frustration for them in school; approximately sixty percent of students with learning problems have undetected vision impairments; and

Whereas, all children deserve the opportunity to learn and achieve their full potential, and efforts to increase public awareness about learning-related vision problems help ensure that young people receive prompt and proper vision treatment needed to improve the quality of their lives in and out of school; and

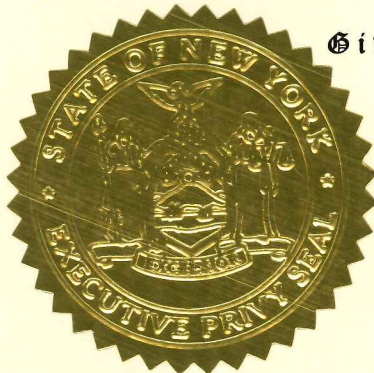
Whereas, sight is perhaps the sense we all rely on most and, for children, good vision helps them perform better not only in school where they read, write, and work on computers, but in other aspects of their daily lives – from crossing the street, to watching a baseball game, to milling around the playground; as children grow, sight enhances their overall life experiences and improves their ability to interact with people and the world outside; and

Whereas, parents, educators, school nurses, and all concerned adults are reminded of the critical role vision plays in the learning process, to address external factors that cause damage to children's vision, and to take steps to diminish the harmful effects that untreated vision problems can have on their ability to read and learn; furthermore, it is fitting for all New Yorkers to join in supporting the worthy goals of this month-long observance by focusing on children's eye care by taking them for regular examinations and attending to their vision problems, so they can reap the maximum benefits of their experiences in the classroom and our entire world;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim August 2017 as

CHILDREN'S VISION AND LEARNING MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this first day of
August in the year two thousand seventeen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor
Melissa DeRosa