



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION

Are Your Child's Eyes Healthy?

SACRAMENTO— Back to school season is in full force and parents have been focused on getting all the necessary materials – back-packs, notebooks, pencils – for their child's studies. But are parents thinking about having their child's eye health checked?

Clear vision does not necessarily mean healthy eyes. Nearly 25 percent of school-aged children have vision problems that can cause them to struggle in school. Undetected and untreated vision problems can also leave a child with permanent vision damage later in life. Many of these problems go undetected because children have not received the comprehensive eye exams they need to succeed in school and protect their vision for life.

"The start of a school year is a great time to take your child to get their eyes checked by an optometrist or ophthalmologist," said Cyd Brandvein, President of the California State Board of Optometry. "Most parents will get their child's vision screened at school or by their regular healthcare provider. We encourage parents to go the extra step to get their child a comprehensive eye exam to detect significant vision and eye health problems."

Existing school vision tests miss eye disorders in 1 in 3 children. Children can be labeled with special needs or as having behavioral challenges when they simply can't see the blackboard or focus on their book or computer. A comprehensive eye exam can detect significant vision and eye health problems, such as binocular vision deficiencies that can impede reading.

This school year, make sure your children have clear vision and healthy eyes. Regularly check the health of your eyes by visiting your eye doctor. To verify the license of your

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optometrist or ophthalmologist, visit the Department of Consumer Affairs' website at www.dca.ca.gov and click the BreEZe button.

The California Board of Optometry is part of the California Department of Consumer Affairs. The board licenses and regulates more than 7,500 Optometrists. You can visit www.optometry.ca.gov for a variety of consumer resources, including publications, forms and general information.

The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) promotes and protects the interests of California consumers while ensuring a competent and fair marketplace. The department also protects professionals (licensees) from unfair competition by unlicensed practitioners. Consumers can file complaints against licensees by contacting DCA at (800) 952-5210. Consumers can also file a complaint online at www.dca.ca.gov

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