

HB 2992, Students See Clearly Act

**Damian Carroll, National Director,
Vision To Learn
House Committee on Education
February 3, 2025**

The Problem

 **1 in 4**

students have vision issues that can affect their ability to achieve in school and engage in life



80%

of all learning in a child's first 12 years comes through vision

95%

of 1st graders in low-income communities who need glasses do not have them



3rd Graders

who are not proficient in reading are more likely to drop out of school



3 million
children

in America lack the glasses they need to read a book, see the board or participate in class

The Solution



Provide eye exams and glasses, free of charge, to students at schools in underserved urban and rural communities

More than **3.3 million** kids have been helped by Vision To Learn, including **510,000** provided with glasses.



87% are kids of color

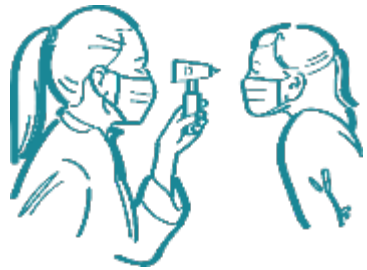
89% of kids served live in poverty

How the Program Would Work



Vision Screening

Each child is provided with a screening at school



Eye Exam

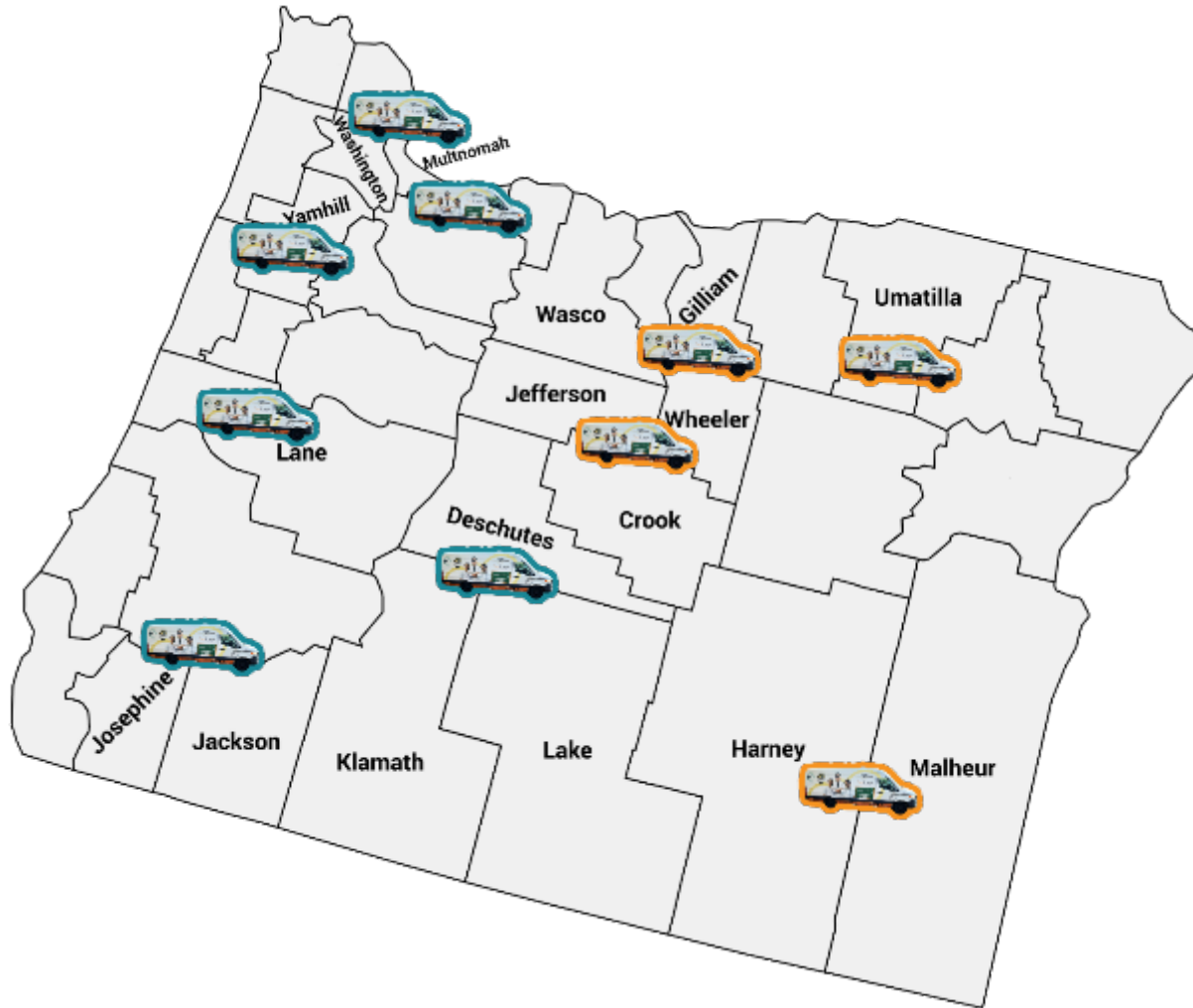
Children who do not pass the screening are provided with an eye exam



Glasses

Students select them from a wide range of sizes and styles

Proposal: Help Every Child in Need in Oregon



- **Clinic 1 & 2:** Portland Metro
- **Clinic 3:** Northwest
- **Clinic 4:** Linn, Lane, Douglas Counties
- **Clinic 5:** Jackson, Josephine Counties
- **Clinic 6:** Klamath, Lake, Deschutes Counties
- **Clinic 7:** Umatilla, Union Counties
- **Clinic 8:** Central Oregon
- **Clinic 9:** Gilliam, Wheeler, Wasco
- **Clinic 10:** Harney, Malheur Counties

Glasses Improve Student Achievement

"Students in grades 3 to 7 who received eyeglasses through a school-based program achieved better reading scores."



Improved Test Scores

- Students provided glasses improved their English test scores by an amount equivalent to **2-4 additional months** of classroom instruction
- Students in the lowest quartile and those with an Individualized Education Program **gained 4-6 months**

Gains exceeded other education interventions

- Glasses outperformed 1:1 technology, extended school days, and charter schools
- For the lowest performing students, glasses outperformed individual tutoring



Funding Sources for Sustainability



1

Private Philanthropy

- Local and national philanthropy enables program launch
- Taper as public funding grows

2

Medicaid; Children's Healthcare Insurance Plan (CHIP)

- Credential & contract with Medicaid and MCO's
- Build government relationships needed for CHIP HSI

3

CHIP Health Services Initiative (HSI)

- Gain CMS and State approval to access CHIP administrative dollars
- Implement via State Plan Amendment (SPA)

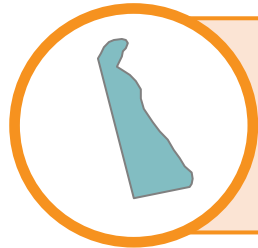
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Other Sources

- Congressionally Directed Spending
- State-enabled funding
- Pay-for-performance
- Regional economic support programs

Approved Vision Services VTL CHIP HSIs

Four states have already received CMS approval to implement vision services CHIP HSIs, with a fifth state nearly complete



Delaware (Approved 2017)



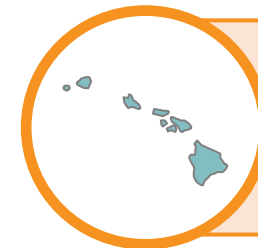
Pennsylvania (Approved 2022)



Mississippi (Approved 2019)



California (Pending Approval)



Hawaii (Approved 2021)

SB 2992 - Changing the Picture Statewide

Impact



~36,000 kids



~10 mobile units statewide



18,000 exams and glasses per year, no need for child to ever leave school



Delivers the equivalent of **12,000** school years of education to communities most in need statewide over biennium

Cost

- State initiative launch cost **\$10.5** MM/biennium
 - One time **\$1.73** MM start-up capital for mobile vision clinics, equipment, clinic retrofit
 - Annual operating cost **\$4.38** MM for clinicians/ops staff
- Operating cost offset with vendor-provided funds (VTL example shown)
 - Private Philanthropy (~\$0.4 MM/year)
 - Medicaid (\$0.2 MM/year once contracted)
 - Federal CHIP funds (\$0.75 MM/year with state match \$0.3 MM)
 - Federal CDS funds (\$1.4 MM Sen. Merkley and Wyden proposed)
- Operating cost = **\$111 - \$188** per child for life-changing glasses (based on vendor offsets, pre-OHA admin costs)

Note: replacements for lost and broken covered for life of Rx

César Chávez Elementary School Event





Thank You!

