



Reynolds School District  
Administration Offices  
1204 NE 201<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Fairview, OR 97024  
(503) 661-7200 • fax (503) 667-6932

January 10, 2025

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express Reynolds School District's strong support for the creation of a statewide program designed to provide optometric services and prescription eyeglasses at no cost to students or their families.

Research and our own experience highlight the critical need for addressing vision issues among our students. One in four children has vision challenges that can significantly affect their ability to learn and succeed in life. Notably, 80% of learning during a child's first two years relies on vision, yet up to 95% of first graders who need glasses in under-resourced communities lack access to them.

Students' vision health directly impacts educational outcomes. For instance, third graders who are not proficient in reading are at higher risk of dropping out, while research from Johns Hopkins University demonstrates that providing glasses to students can boost standardized test scores by an equivalent of up to six months of class time.

Programs offering mobile optometric clinics have already demonstrated success in 14 states and the District of Columbia, providing over 500,000 students with prescription eyeglasses at no cost. In Oregon alone, an estimated 40,000 children attend school each day unable to see clearly.

In our district, 122 students who failed their vision screening received eye examinations, and 88 were provided prescription eyeglasses—all without leaving school grounds, missing class, or incurring any cost.

Such programs also make effective use of federal funding through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), further maximizing their impact.

Reynolds School District believes that all students deserve equitable access to the tools they need to succeed in school and life, and we see this initiative as an essential step toward ensuring educational equity and opportunity for all Oregon children.

We wholeheartedly support the creation of a statewide program to expand access to optometric services and prescription eyeglasses, and we are eager to collaborate to make this vision a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "F. Caropelo".

**Frank Caropelo**  
Superintendent,  
Reynolds School District

