



## **AAPOS Policy Statement**

### **Medically Necessary Eye Examinations for Children Who Have Failed Vision Screening**

Eye disease and vision disorders in children are often not outwardly apparent. Vision screening of young children is an effective means of detecting eye disorders such as refractive error, amblyopia (poor vision), strabismus (eye misalignment) and other medical conditions of the eye. Early detection of these abnormalities through vision screening leads to earlier treatment and life-long benefit to these children. Some eye diseases, if not detected and treated in childhood, can lead to irreversible, life-long vision loss.

A comprehensive ophthalmologic examination is medically necessary in children whose vision screening has indicated a possible abnormality of eye health and/ or vision. This medical necessity exists regardless of the ultimate presence or absence of ocular pathology. Thus, in children who have failed a vision screening and who are not found to have amblyopia, strabismus, or other medical condition on examination, the examination following a failed vision screening is still considered medically necessary and not considered routine eye care.

The American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (AAPOS) considers a comprehensive eye examination following failed vision screening in children medically necessary.

**Approved by the AAPOS Board of Directors –March 2017**