



# DCoDPH Board of Health School Health Update

Malkia Rayner

Director of Nursing & Director of Medical Services Division

Sara Snyder, LeeAntoinette Moore,  
Cheryl Parsons, & Carolyn Jacobs  
Public Health Nurse Supervisors

Katie Foy Huamani  
School Nurse



# Agenda/Topics to Be Covered

- Vision needs in children & Durham Public Schools
- Partnership with:
  - Project SIGHT
  - Prevent Blindness of NC





# A Few Facts

- 1 in 20 preschool children & 1 in 4 school aged children are affected by a vision problem
- Left uncorrected, these could lead to permanent vision loss
- No national guideline exists mandating ages at which vision screening should occur at school.
- NC Legislation requires vision screening for students entering kindergarten or upon school entry.
- Prevent Blindness of NC trains & certifies school health nurses & school staff every 2 years to provide vision screenings.





# Our Why

- Exams & glasses can be expensive. Almost 15% of children that need new or replacement glasses lack them due to cost
- During the 2022-2023 school year, nearly 600 DPS students were referred for professional eye care & 66% secured the needed care
- School nurses were able to screen 118 students for vision during the 2023-2024 school year prior to the partnership with Project SIGHT
  - Of this, 42 were referred for professional eye care & 20 have been able to secure care

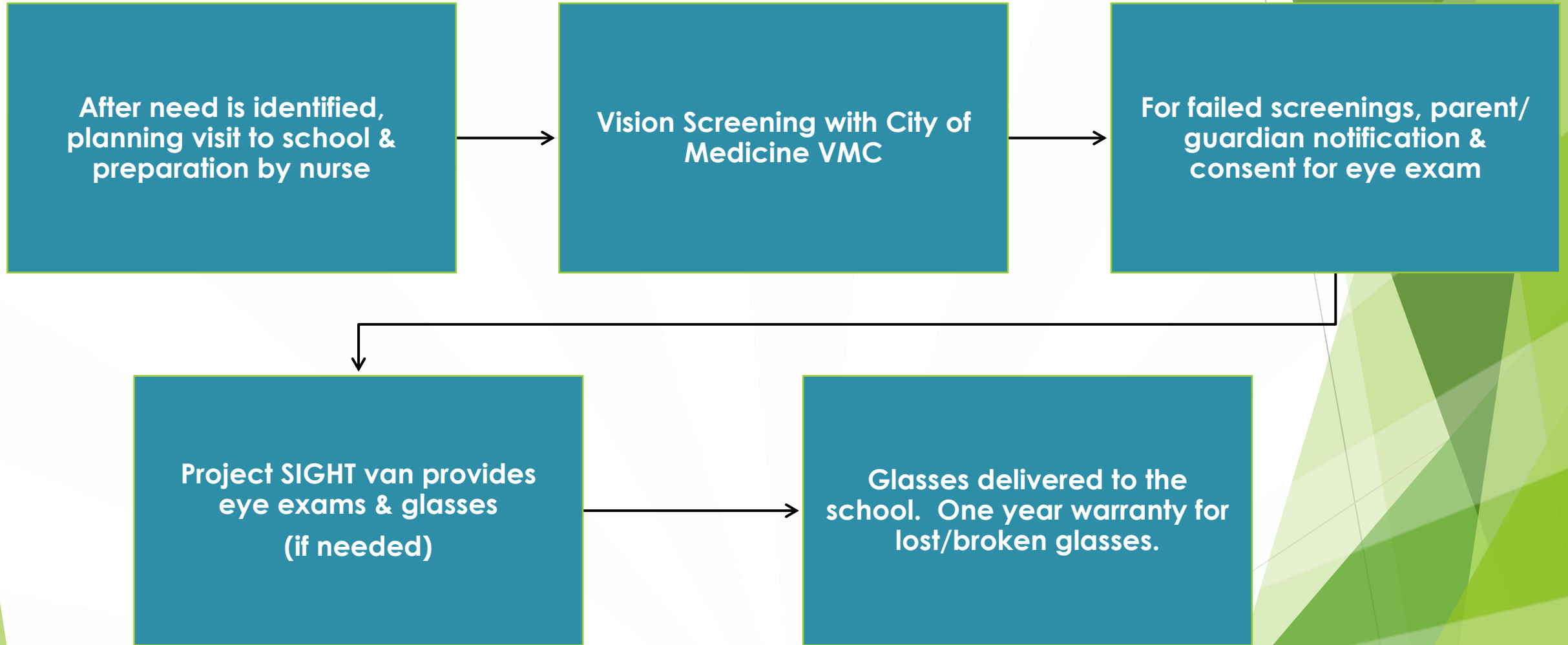




## Our Partnership

Durham County Public Health School Health, Durham Public Schools, Durham Technical Community College & the City Of Medicine Volunteer Medical Corps created a partnership & developed an MOU to bring needed vision care to Durham County students starting in 2022

# Process



# Current School Year Events

	Screened	Referred	Exam	Glasses
Forest View*	21	21	13	13
Holt	201	58	37	37
WG Pearson	130	60	42	42



For elementary school, 1st, 3rd, & 5th grades are screened. For middle school, 7<sup>th</sup> grade. For high school, 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Students from other grades are also screened if there are vision concerns or if there's capacity to screen other whole grades.





# Feedback

- *This is such an amazing project! I am so absolutely grateful. Glasses are so expensive. Again, I am so grateful for this. I'm a single mom with no support. It's so hard these days living on a single income. Thank you!!! ~DPS parent*
- *One of my EL student was in need of glasses and came up to me happily to tell me she is getting new glasses. The Vision Van made her day. ~DPS educator*
- *A student desperately needed EC services, but for the process to move forward, she had to pass a vision screen but continued to fail vision screens. The family was having difficulty securing vision care for the student, so she went months without glasses and needed EC services. She was seen by Project Sight, received glasses, passed a vision screen, and the EC evaluation process was allowed to move forward. ~DCoDPH nurse*
- *We are grateful for the support that we receive from your department. Without the help from you all, we would have a much more challenging time accomplishing this work. ~Whitney Young, Coordinator, Community Health Lab, Durham Technical Community College*







Working together to provide students the vision they need to succeed!

DURHAM  
COUNTY

DCO  
NC

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Thank You!



Live. Grow. *Thrive.*