

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Changes to Take Place in Health-Related School Attendance  
Requirements for the 2014-2015 School Year**

**CHATHAM COUNTY, GA** – The 2014-2015 school year will bring changes for some children attending Georgia schools. Health department officials in Bryan, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Liberty, Long, and McIntosh counties want to make communities aware of those changes now, before the end of the current school year.

**Vision, Hearing, Dental, and Nutrition Screening (form 3300)**

It has been a requirement for parents to present a completed Vision, Hearing, and Dental screening form (form 3300) to school authorities for children entering a Georgia public school for the first time. That is still a requirement; however, the form has been revised to include “nutrition” as a category. The nutrition category measures height, weight, and Body Mass Index (BMI). The new Certificate of Vision, Hearing, Dental and Nutrition Screening Form can be found by going to [www.gachd.org](http://www.gachd.org) and clicking on the Immunizations and Vaccinations link under the Quick Links menu on the home page.

\* (Children currently enrolled in the public school Pre-K program should not be required to complete an additional form 3300 for admittance into the Kindergarten program).

**New Immunization Requirements for Children Attending Seventh Grade**

Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, seventh graders will be required to have the tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) and meningococcal (meningitis) vaccines prior to entering school. Effective July 1, 2014, children born on or after January 1, 2002 who are attending seventh grade and new entrants into Georgia schools in grades 8 through 12 must have received one dose of Tdap vaccine and one dose of meningococcal vaccine. (“New entrant” means any child entering any school in Georgia for the first time or entering after having been absent from a Georgia school for more than 12 months or one school year).

“These are positive changes,” said Diane Weems, M.D., Health Director for the Coastal Health District. “Measuring a child’s BMI at an early age will help identify possible nutritional issues and vaccinating middle-school students against preventable diseases will help keep them and our communities healthier.”

For more information on tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, meningitis or the associated vaccines, go to [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

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# Georgia Department of Public Health Form 3300

## Certificate of Vision, Hearing, Dental, and Nutrition Screening

**Who is required to file this Form 3300?** The parent or guardian of a child who is being admitted for the first time to a public school in Georgia must file a completed Form 3300 with the school when the child is enrolled.

**What is the purpose of Form 3300?** Form 3300 is intended to make sure that every child in Georgia is screened for possible problems with their vision, hearing, teeth and nutrition. The earlier these problems are detected, the earlier parents can seek professional help for the child.

**What screenings are required?** Four different screenings are required: vision, hearing, dental, and nutrition. All four screenings must be conducted and reported on the form before it can be filed with the school.

**Who can conduct the screenings?** Your child's doctor is authorized to conduct all four screenings, as is your local health department. In addition, the vision screening can be conducted by a Georgia licensed optometrist, an employee of Prevent Blindness Georgia trained to conduct vision screening, or a school registered nurse; the hearing screening can be conducted by a Georgia licensed speech-language pathologist or audiologist, or a school registered nurse; the dental screening can be conducted by a Georgia licensed dentist, dental hygienist, or a school registered nurse; and the nutrition screening can be conducted by a Georgia licensed dietician or a school registered nurse. It is not necessary that the same person conduct all four screenings.

**What does "BMI" and "BMI%" mean?** "BMI" means "body mass index." BMI is a way to describe how much a child weighs in relation to height. "BMI percentile" is a way to compare the child's body mass index to the body mass index of a healthy child. If the child's BMI is less than 5% or more than 84% of what is appropriate for his or her age and height, then the child should be taken to a doctor or dietician for a more detailed evaluation. For more information, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website on child and teen BMI at:

[http://www.cdc.gov/healthyweight/assessing/bmi/childrens\\_bmi/about\\_childrens\\_bmi.html](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyweight/assessing/bmi/childrens_bmi/about_childrens_bmi.html)

**What should a parent do if the "needs further evaluation" box is checked?** "Needs further evaluation" means that the child may have a problem. If the "needs further evaluation" box is checked, then the parent should take the child to a professional for a more detailed evaluation. Your doctor or local health department may be able to help, or recommend someone who can help.

**What if a Form 3300 was previously filed for the child at another school?** It is only necessary to file the Form 3300 once. If the Form 3300 is filed at the child's first school, and the child later transfers to another school, then the original school is required to forward the Form 3300 to the new school.