



SCHOOL MANUAL 2016-2017 School Year

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Dear Principal,

The Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program, a division of The Miami Lighthouse, provides financially underprivileged students who qualify, with comprehensive eye examinations and prescription glasses if needed, in contracted counties in Florida, at no cost to the parent, student or school.

Students who meet the eligibility criteria under one of our two programs will receive a free eye exam and glasses, if prescribed. The first is a voucher (In-Office Program), where we will refer the student to a local participating eye doctor. We also offer a second program, Mobile eye-care at your school, if a minimum number of students are eligible.

Once we receive signed parent consent forms, for counties not approved for opt-out, and determine if a student qualifies, we will either: fax the school a voucher with a doctor's name, address and phone number to give to the parent, or we will hold the consent forms until we arrive for mobile eye-care. If prescription glasses are needed, the student is provided with a choice of fashionable frames. Participating eye doctors are credentialed by the Florida Optometric Physicians Network.

You can find all protocol and procedures in the enclosed School Manual (also found on our website: www.floridaheiken.org) in order for your qualified students to take advantage of the program. Remember: As 85% of what a child perceives, comprehends and remembers depends on the visual system, it is imperative that all children have the gift of good vision for success in school and their future.

Last year, about 80% of those who were examined, needed glasses. Your students may need glasses!

We look forward to working with you in the near future. Please call the Heiken office with any questions at 305-856-9830 or 1-888-996-9847.

Sincerely,

The Florida Heiken Team

601 Southwest 8th Avenue
Miami, FL 33130
Phone: (305) 856-9830 / 1(888) 996-9847 Fax: (305) 856-9840 /1(888) 980-8474
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Student Criteria

We have various funding sources with different eligibility criteria. Therefore, to determine the best match for each student, please provide all of the following information (**if applicable**):

- Currently attend a Florida Public School where services are available.
- Student Identification Number (Required for all students).
- Low-Income through eligibility for the Florida National School Lunch Program (Free or Reduced Lunch) is no longer required.
- Date of a failed school based vision screening consistent with the recommendations of the National Association of School Nurses, and both dates must be documented on the consent form.
- Insurance status will be determined by Heiken staff after application is received.
 - We are able to serve some students with accepted Medicaid Managed Care Plans. The parent is required to sign the second signature on the bottom of the consent form authorizing Heiken to submit to their insurance for payment. Insured students can only be seen through Heiken on a mobile unit visit, not on a voucher. Please call the Heiken office for details in your county.

School Procedures

- The school provides the student with a Parent Consent Form (found on our website: www.floridaheiken.org) to take home and have signed by their parent/guardian. Forms must be entirely filled out, signed and returned to the school nurse or appointed designee.
- The school nurse or designee then confirms that all information has been included, completes the box located on the top of the consent form by filling in the failed screening date and attesting that the student is on the free or reduced lunch program (if applicable) and signs. **Your cooperation to obtain this information is greatly appreciated.**
- Please also inform us of any student requiring any special needs and or auxiliary aids, visual devices, hearing devices, language interpreters, sign language, mobility devices and or any other such items according to the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Department of Health Policy 220-3-00 section 504.
- Once completed and signed, fax both the Heiken Fax Cover Sheet and Parent Consent Form to our toll free number provided on the forms. To expedite the process, please verify all information is completed on every consent form and specify on the Fax Cover Sheet if you are requesting a visit from our Mobile Vision Unit (requires 15 or more eligible students) or a voucher for an in-office appointment.

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Heiken Procedures

- Upon receiving the faxed consent form, we will determine eligibility based on program criteria.
- Once it is established that the student is a candidate, a Heiken Program Coordinator will proceed with either a voucher or a mobile unit schedule. Processes listed below:
- **VOUCHER PROCESS:**
 - The school nurse or designee will be sent, via fax, a Voucher, which is to be given to the student to take home for the parent/guardian. This form will have all of the Doctor's information, so the parent/guardian can call to schedule an appointment. In addition, the doctor's office will also receive a copy of the voucher via fax.
 - If glasses are prescribed the doctor's office will order the glasses which should arrive within 2 to 3 weeks, at which time the parent/guardian will be notified by the doctor to go back to the office for pick up and adjustments.
- **MOBILE VISION PROCESS:**

School Responsibilities

- School Nurse or other designee will conduct school based vision screenings of students meeting the Florida Heiken criteria in grades K-12
- Schools will promptly distribute consent forms to all students who fail the school based vision screening and encourage the students to return completed forms signed by their parent/guardian, and will provide the Heiken Program (in writing) of those dates and attest that the student is on the free or reduced lunch program by signing the form as well.
- Schools will return these forms as quickly as possible to the Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program Team. Once reviewed and a student is deemed qualified, a referral form for an in-office appointment will be sent back to the school and given to the student to bring home to their parent/guardian to set up an appointment with a local providing optometrist
- School officials involved will be asked to fill out a survey so we may monitor the program and help find any signs for improvement
- If the Fax Cover Sheet included with the consent forms states that a Mobile Vision Unit is being requested, a Heiken Program Coordinator will call the school to discuss the

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number of eligible students and coordinate the visit. Please note, we will make every attempt to bring the mobile unit to a school with 15-25+ eligible students to examine, but we ask that all student forms be submitted as early as possible to expedite the process and prevent scheduling delays. In the instance that 2 schools are located within a couple miles of one another, we may be able to coordinate both schools on the same day to total 15-20 students. If you know a school nearby is also ready for a mobile visit, please let our coordinator know so they can attempt to schedule the visits.

- We ask that the school contact verify that the scheduled date does not conflict with an early release day, testing, or other scheduled school activities, which could prevent the students from receiving Heiken services by obtaining administrator approval for the date.
- If there are any County/District specific requirements for our staff to provide services on the school site, such as fingerprinting or ID badges, please notify the Heiken Program Coordinator when scheduling, so we have time to be in compliance.
 - All Heiken staff, doctors and opticians have the statewide issued badge to show Level II background check screening clearance.
- **The deadline to fax new consent forms and guarantee that the students will be on the list for the scheduled visit is 4:30pm, 3 business days before the visit.**
- **2 days before the site visit, Heiken staff will:**
 - Fax the final student list to school contact. If you will need this list earlier, please notify the Heiken Coordinator, so they may prepare it sooner.
- **1 day before the site visit, Heiken staff will:**
 - Call school's contact to confirm visit start time
 - Verify location: Where to park Mobile Unit and/or room availability for portable equipment or screening (if needed).
- **School Arrival Procedures**
 - The Mobile Unit and Heiken Technician will check in at the main office and ask for the contact person and will be prepared to present Florida badge, a picture ID and any County Required documents requested during scheduling.
 - If you need additional Heiken Brochures, please request them from the Heiken Program Coordinator during the scheduling process. They are available in English, Spanish and Creole.
 - The Heiken Technician will

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- Provide a testimonial form and satisfaction survey for the school contact to complete and submit to the Heiken office. Please obtain testimonials from students, parents, teachers, etc. New and current funders of the Heiken program require testimonials in our requests and reports.
 - Review the student list with the contact person
 - Name tags will be provided by Heiken for every student. We ask that the school staff person who retrieves the student places the correct name tag on the student's shirt for additional verification of the student's identity, especially important for young students and those with disabilities.
 - Please note, Heiken staff are focused on performing exams and cannot be responsible for the supervision of students who are waiting. Therefore, **it is mandatory that the school assign a monitor to be present with Heiken staff at all times.** We recommend that you also assign a runner to take students to and from the exam area, so the school monitor doesn't leave the area.
 - Ask that 5-7 students at a time (may vary depending on the doctor and age of the students) are brought to the exam area/mobile unit.
 - Please let the teachers know the student will be with Heiken for about an hour.
 - If there are students that were not on the list originally, the technician is not authorized to approve eligibility. Please fax the information to the Heiken office and call the Heiken office to check eligibility for current or future date /voucher.
- While the school contact is gathering the students, the Heiken Technician will set up and prepare all equipment.
 - School staff is not allowed to help with set up or repairs of equipment due to liability issues.



- **If any student is wearing contact lenses we cannot examine them.**
We do not perform contact lens exams, and we do not have a means to store them during and after the exam. If the school contact wants to take responsibility to be certain that the student is using hygienic processes in a place where they may wash hands properly within the school to remove the lenses, we will be happy to perform the exam. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES is any student allowed to remove contact lenses on the mobile unit, in the examining area where hand washing facilities are not available, or after using hand sanitizer.
- The comprehensive eye exam, administered by an eye doctor, includes a thorough examination of the students' vision and eye health. In order to perform the examination, the use of eye drops to dilate the pupils is used, which allows the doctor to get the most accurate eye health information and prescription for eye glasses. The drops are safe to use, and adverse reactions are extremely rare. Light sensitivity and blurry near vision are normal for up to 4-6 hours following the exam. Dilation allows for a more effective examination. [Journal of American Optometric Assoc.](#)
- Once finished the student will be given disposable sun glasses for glare and a dilation note. Then the runner can return them to class as instructed by the school contact.
- If we are unable to perform an exam on a student, the Heiken office will issue a voucher, if eligible, to a local In-Office Provider, which will be faxed to the school contact to deliver to the student.
- The school nurse will be notified immediately of any urgent medical referrals.
- Please note, glasses can only be dispensed directly to a student by a licensed Optician to ensure the correct prescription and fit. If a student is absent on the day the Optician dispenses, the optician will return the glasses to the Heiken office to make arrangements for the parents to pick up the glasses (if in Miami-Dade County) from Miami Lighthouse for the Blind or to be mailed to the student's home, signature required.

If there are any quality assurance issues or questions you would like to discuss, please contact:

Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program Office and ask for the Consulting Optometrist.

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PATIENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The physicians, employees, and staff who are involved in providing vision care services to you, sincerely believe in providing the highest quality of care and services available. We will always try to communicate with our patients, and to address their questions and concerns in a direct, informative way, while offering appropriate explanations and viable choices.

Patient Responsibilities

- Keep all appointments and, when unable to do so for any reason, promptly notify your eye care provider and facility involved
- Provide accurate, complete, and honest information about present vision problems, past illnesses, hospitalizations, medications, and other matters that relate to your eye care needs
- Treat your eye care provider/staff/facility with respect and consideration and conduct yourself with decorum.
- Be considerate of the rights of other patients in the facility and assist in controlling noise and/or other disruptions
- Be respectful of the property of other patients in the facility
- Report any unexpected changes in your condition
- Ask questions if you do not understand your treatment or what is expected of you
- Follow the treatment plan recommended by your eye care provider

Patient Rights

- Receive available vision care services regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age or disabilities
- Always be treated with courtesy and respect, dignity and regard
- Know what benefits you are due and what your responsibilities are for those benefits
- Know who is providing your vision care services
- Expect reasonable confidence, comfort, and safety in your environment
- Receive full information concerning the evaluation of your vision care needs
- Receive Auxiliary Aids when needed
- Receive prompt answers to your questions and/or requests
- Refuse any treatment, except as otherwise provided by law
- Receive an explanation if there is a need for referral to another vision care provider or medical care provider
- Report any complaints you may have about the quality of vision care you receive
- Request privacy information regarding your personal and vision care information within the normal guidelines of the law
- Have your records released to the professional person of your choice for any appropriate continuing care

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- All patients must be given services, scheduling of appointments and accuracy of record keeping without regard to race, sex, color, national origin, religion, age or disability.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy

The Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program is committed to complying with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). It is the policy of the Heiken Program to ensure equal opportunity for qualified individuals with disabilities for those enrolled in its program. Qualifications to be a provider will be based on the applicants ability to perform the essential function of the job. The Heiken Program will not discriminate against otherwise-qualified applicants in any of its contracted activities.

The Heiken Program will provide any reasonable accommodations to qualified enrolled applicants with a disability, as defined by the ADA, who have made the Heiken Program aware of their disability, provided that the accommodation does not impose an undue hardship on the Heiken Program.

The Heiken Program is also committed to not discriminate against any applicant because a family member or friend is covered under the protection of the ADA. The Heiken Program will follow any state or local law that provides individuals with disabilities greater protection.

This policy is neither exhaustive nor exclusive. The Heiken Program is committed to taking all other actions necessary to ensure equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in accordance with the ADA and all other applicable federal, state and local laws.

Equal Employment Opportunity Policy

It is the policy of the Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program to provide equal rights to our providers based on qualifications (licensure, in compliance with state optometry practices and procedures, mal-practice insurance, of good moral character, disability and self evaluation protocols), job performance and abilities. The Heiken Program does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, pregnancy, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation or any other characteristic protected by applicable federal, state or local laws.

This policy governs all aspects of becoming part of the Heiken Program, but not limited to compensation, benefits, promotions, trainings, discipline and termination.

Contracted doctors and school officials with questions or concerns about any type of discrimination are encouraged to bring these issues to the attention of the Heiken program director.



PRIVACY PRACTICES

The Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program respects the privacy of protected health information and understands the importance of keeping this information confidential and secure. This policy describes how we protect the confidentiality of the protected health information we receive.

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)

- The Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program maintains a comprehensive system to ensure compliance with applicable provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). Since our goal is to provide the highest level of service to your County Public School Students, we want you to know that the Florida Heiken Children's' Vision Program complies with the HIPAA directives. Our HIPAA privacy Policy contains procedures addressing the protection, use and disclosure of protected health information ("PHI"), accounting of disclosures, access by individuals and third parties to PHI, protection of PHI by contractors, business associate agreements and training of employees.

How We Protect Personal Information

- We treat personal information securely and confidentially. We limit access to personal information to only those persons who need to know that information to provide support services to Heiken students. These persons are trained on the importance of safeguarding this information and must comply with our procedures and applicable laws. We employ strict physical, electronic and procedural security standards to protect personal information and maintain internal procedures to promote the integrity and accuracy of that information.
- All personal information and examination reports are kept in locked file cabinets within a locked office. Files are checked out by staff with access to these files and are returned prior to the close of each business day. All files are in their assigned file cabinet at the end of business each day. Each file cabinet and the office that contains them is locked prior to the departure of staff each day. During normal business hours, staff will close and lock the door to the file storage area when it is not in use. Documentation of all staff members with access keys to this room will remain on file.
- Staff of the Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program will restrict conversations involving personal information to offices or closed general meetings of the staff. If visitors are present during general meetings the information will be held for a later meeting or the visitors may be excused so as not to disclose confidential information. Staff will not engage in confidential discussions in the hallways, restrooms, lunchrooms, classrooms, gardens or other public, common areas. Staff violating this policy will be disciplined up to and including termination.

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Disclosure of Personal Information

- We may use or disclose protected health information to the Public Schools Programs and medical professionals involved in our referral procedures. We may use or disclose protected health information when reporting to other agencies/organizations. Disclosure of protected health information to other medical professionals is done on a “need to know” basis for the sole purpose of referring for specialized treatment. Disclosure to other agencies/organizations is done following recommended reporting requirements. At no time will the Florida Heiken Children’s Vision Program disclose any personal information to the general public or any other entity. We may also disclose information as required by law.
- The Florida Heiken Children’s Vision Program will not permit staff to disclose personal information via the Internet, e-mail, or other electronic forms that are not guaranteed secure. The Agency will permit the use of facsimile machines to transmit information as well as regular mail services via the U.S. Postal Service or other carrier that may be engaged.

Individual Rights to Access and Correct Personal Information

- We have procedures in place for individuals to have access to protected health information, and procedures in place to ensure the integrity of our information and for the timely correction of incorrect information.

Further Information

- The Florida Heiken Children’s Vision Program may find it necessary to revise and update its HIPAA Privacy Policy from time to time as changes to the privacy regulations emerge, and will communicate any such changes to the County Public School System and our partnered agencies.
- The Florida Heiken Children’s Vision Program is an equal opportunity organization and does not discriminate against otherwise qualified persons on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, age, sex, marital status, national origin, disability or veteran status