

On April 17, 2013, Board Member Dr. Debra Robinson asked the following question regarding AC 2 - 2012-2014 School Health Services Plan. The response was prepared by the Division of Safety and Learning and the CAO.

QUESTION:

Please provide the up-to-date reason that we don't require that all kindergartners are screened for lead poisoning.

RESPONSE:

Evidence-based practice addresses lead screening much earlier since waiting for kindergarten is too late per the neurodevelopment impact of lead and recent national guidelines utilize a more targeted approach as the problem of lead exposure continues the downward trend.

Federal regulations (Medicaid) require screening blood lead testing of all children at 12 and 24 months of age. The AAP also recommends early screening between 9-12 months of age and consideration again at 24 months depending on local community/population at risk. Children between 36-72 months who have not been previously screened for lead poisoning (new to the country, didn't receive well child check-ups, any concerns by history of exposure, etc.) are also recommended to be tested.

Florida has always had lower rates of lead exposed children compared with the Northeast with low numbers and staff continue with home visits/intervention with reported cases.

The information above, as well as the attached information, was provided by the Health Department.

Another consideration - if this isn't a medically covered requirement at that age, who will fund the cost for the screening tests?

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