



North East Independent School District

8961 TESORO DRIVE – SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78217
Phone (210) 804-7147, Fax (210) 804-7171

Date Distributed _____

Spinal Screening Notification

Dear Parent/Guardian:

House Bill 832 passed by the Texas Legislature in 1985 requires screening all students in grades 5 and 8 for abnormal spinal curves. The purpose of spinal screening is to detect the signs of abnormal curves of the spine at their earliest stages so that the need for treatment can be determined. Scoliosis, a common spinal abnormality found in adolescents, is a sideways twisting of the spine. It is usually detected in children between 10 and 14 years of age. Kyphosis, sometimes called round back, is an exaggerated rounding of the upper back and is often confused with poor posture. Many cases of curvature of the spine are mild and require only ongoing observation by a physician. Others can worsen with time as the child grows and require active treatment such as bracing and surgery. Early treatment can prevent the development of a severe deformity which can affect a person's appearance and health.

School Nurses who have been specially trained as screeners will look at your child's back while he/she stands and then bends forward. For this examination, boys and girls will be screened separately and individually. **To properly screen for spinal abnormalities, all students must remove their shirt for this exam.** This allows the school nurse to better visualize the spine. For this reason females are requested to wear a halter/sport/tube top or a swim suit top underneath their shirt on exam day.

Parents will be notified of the screening results only if professional follow-up by a physician is necessary. This screening procedure does not replace your child's need for regular health care and check-ups.

If your child is currently under a physician's care for scoliosis, kyphosis, or other spinal abnormalities, please submit a parent note prior to the screening date. A physician's statement is required prior to the screening date or as soon as possible thereafter in order to verify that your child is receiving on-going treatment. This information will be placed in your student's health record. If, for religious reasons, you do not wish to have your child screened, you are to submit an affidavit of religious exemption to the School Nurse prior to the screening. Please call the School Nurse if you would like more information.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Principal

School Nurse

School

Phone

Date of Screening

01/09