



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ohio Optometric Association Poised to Continue Statewide, Comprehensive Eye Exams for Ohio's Children
Ohio's only statewide optometric association to support thousands of children through FY 26-27 funding

Columbus, OH (February 3, 2025): The Ohio Optometric Association (OOA) is pleased to support Governor Mike DeWine's budget proposal that includes funding for children's vision initiatives as a result of the Children's Vision Strike Force, providing children who fail their school vision screenings with the comprehensive eye care they need. By investing in this outreach, Gov. DeWine is prioritizing children's vision and taking a critical step toward improving academic success and overall well-being for Ohio's students.

"We appreciate Gov. DeWine's steadfast support of our shared priorities to ensure Ohio's children have access to the comprehensive vision support they deserve," said Dr. Tim Fries, Board President, OOA. "Our thousands of member Doctors of Optometry look forward to helping implement this important initiative and ensure every child has the clear vision necessary to reach their full potential."

As primary eye care providers, Doctors of Optometry see firsthand the impact that undiagnosed and untreated vision problems can have on a child's ability to learn. Studies show that up to 80% of learning occurs visually, and children who struggle to see the board, read books or focus on digital learning tools are at a significant disadvantage. While school screenings are an important first step in identifying potential vision issues, they do not replace a comprehensive eye exam, which can diagnose conditions that screenings often miss, such as amblyopia, binocular vision disorders and significant refractive errors.

Through the OOA's non-profit initiatives, operated by the Ohio Optometric Foundation, 38 in-school clinics were organized in 2024, providing 721 Ohio students who had been identified as needing critical vision support with comprehensive eye care and corrective measures.

"We are thrilled that Governor DeWine has recognized the importance of children's vision and the vital role that it plays in learning and development," said Dr. Shane Foster, Board President, Ohio Optometric Foundation. "We applaud his investment in the future of Ohio's children, and we look forward to working with the Governor's team, the Ohio Department of Health and the General Assembly to ensure every child has access to quality, comprehensive vision care."

Ohio's Doctors of Optometry have a presence in 86 of Ohio's 88 counties and are prepared to meet the vision needs of our state's youngest students.

###

About the Ohio Optometric Association

Founded in 1902, the Ohio Optometric Association (OOA) is the leading professional association for Ohio's Doctors of Optometry representing approximately 70% of optometrists in the state. Committed to excellence in eye care, the OOA advocates for the advancement of optometry for its patients and members. The OOA is a trusted resource for public health information on vision and eye health. Learn more online [here](#).



OHIO
OPTOMETRIC
ASSOCIATION

250 E. Wilson Bridge Rd, Suite 240
Worthington, OH 43085
614-781-0708 • info@ooa.org

Media Contact

Becca Thomas | Inspire PR Group on behalf of OOA | 614-633-5158 | becca@inspirePRgroup.com