Vision Screening Follow-Up Process

1. A referral letter should be sent via student or mailed home to the parent/guardian within 10 school days of the screening. Sending it home via student may save money in postage, but nurse and health aide may use their discretion with this.

2. Individual teachers, including special education teachers, should receive a list of their students referred for vision. Encourage teachers to bring up the vision referral subject with parents of these students at an opportune time, such as parent-teacher conferences, phone contacts, etc.

3. If there is no response from the parent/guardian within a month of mailing, the second letter of follow-up should be mailed home. The Health Aide will also check with the individual students and teachers to assess if vision care has been received.

4. After the second letter of follow-up is mailed and student/teacher contact is made, it is determined the student has not yet received vision care, the Health Aide will phone the parent within a month to inquire about follow-up vision care.

5. The Health Aide shall notify the District RN if the parent/guardian cannot be reached, or if there is no medical follow-up within a month of the phone contact by the Health Aide. The District RN (or District Vision Tech/float Health Aide) will phone the parent/guardian.

6. Beyond this point of no response by the parent for vision care, the District RN will notify the administrator of the school, and consult with other building professionals for follow-up action.

7. Possible barriers to the family for care will be reviewed, and the District RN will help determine if assistance is available through the School District or local community.

SOME COMMON BARRIERS TO LACK OF FOLLOW-UP EXAMS
(The Journal of School Nursing, June 2006)

1. Written communication may be too wordy or difficult to understand. Verbal communication may be better understood. Language barriers may require interpreters.
2. Parents may not understand what the vision screening tests mean, may not see need for an eye examination, or not believe the results of the screening.
3. Scheduling appointments may be difficult due to living day-by-day and being unable to plan ahead or by remembering to keep an appointment already made.
4. Transportation may not be available.
5. Access to phone may not be available.
6. There may be time restraints due to work schedules, etc.
7. Many parents are burdened financially by lack of resources and may not think to ask the school or may refuse assistance out of pride and embarrassment.