



December 2, 2021

F. Cleave Ham, MD  
President

Henry Blackford, III  
Vision To Learn  
Charleston SC 29401

Kay Durst, MD  
President-Elect

Marta T. Hampton, MD  
Secretary-Treasurer

Dear Mr. Blackford:

Dana Holladay  
Executive Director

We, the Charleston County Medical Society members of the School Health Committee, are writing this letter in support of the Vision To Learn program in Charleston County School District schools by bringing a mobile van with a South Carolina licensed optometrist to perform modified screening and full refraction on students from kindergarten through high school.

The Charleston County Medical Society was established in 1952 to serve the entire community, not affiliated with any specific hospital system or group. As part of that mission, we have had a School Health Committee which has met monthly since the 1950s to advise the school district about any issue related to health. Over time we have addressed many needs, from increasing the number of school nurses to improving nutrition and physical activity. Vision impairment is certainly a significant health concern that greatly impacts educational achievement, and therefore an important issue for the CCMS School Health Committee.

The Vision to Learn program has had a very successful pilot program in Charleston schools, providing free eye examinations for students at Title 1 schools, with free glasses for those who need them. Children who have conditions beyond the Vision To Learn protocol are referred to local optometric and ophthalmologic providers, who have agreed to accept them. This outreach optometric service is necessary as many students attending Title 1 schools live in poverty and are not able to afford glasses.

Therefore, we commend the Vision To Learn program in Charleston County School District. In addition, we are support of the necessary changes to the South Carolina Board of Examiners to Optometrist policies, procedures and guidelines that would allow such modified screenings to continue at schools.

Sincerely,

Janice D. Key, MD  
The Charleston County Medical Society, School Health Committee Co-Chair

Katharyn Ouzts, MD  
The Charleston County Medical Society, School Health Committee Co-Chair

Annie Andrews, MD  
Pediatric Hospitalist, MUSC

Justine DeCastro, MD  
Family Medicine, Palmetto Proactive Charleston



Shawna McCafferty, MD  
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