



Improving the Vision Health of Arizona's Children

Mission

Eyes On Learning is a coalition of state, local, and national organizations dedicated to improving the vision health of Arizona's children. Because healthy vision is critical to learning and success in school—Eyes On Learning partners work to ensure that Arizona children with vision problems are identified early and receive the eye exams and follow-up care they need.

Overview

Healthy vision is essential for learning, confidence, and long-term well-being. Yet 1 in 4 school-age children have a vision problem, and most go undetected. Children rarely report vision issues, and many families lack information or access to care.

Eyes On Learning was launched by Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust in 2015. Eyes On Learning, established as a coalition, brings together state agencies, schools, health providers, and community partners to ensure children receive regular screenings and follow-up care. This coalition helped shape Arizona's 2019 vision screening mandate, which has ensured that more than 500,000 students are screened every year.

Key Successes

- Brought together statewide leadership through a cross-sector coalition of more than 40 partners in education, health, early childhood, and philanthropy.
- Trained and certified more than 1,200 vision screeners through a partnership with Arizona Department of Health Services.
- Distributed vision screening kits to more than 600 schools at no cost.
- Partnered with VisionQuest 20/20 to bring the EyeSpy 20/20 digital screening system to more than 400 schools, improving accuracy, referrals, and family communication.
- Built statewide systems that connect families, schools, and providers to ensure children receive needed exams and treatment.



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The Children's Vision Fund

GOAL FOR 2030

To make vision screening and vision treatment available to every Arizona school at no cost by investing in sustainable, statewide systems of care.

Overview

The Children's Vision Fund is a collaborative effort led by Eyes On Learning, Vitalyst Health Foundation, VisionQuest 20/20, and Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust. In collaboration, Stardust Foundation, and Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, each awarded a \$1 million lead grant to the Children's Vision Fund. The Fund aims to raise and invest \$10 million dollars over the next four years, generating approximately \$500,000 annually to support:

- Statewide access to the EyeSpy 20/20 Vision Health Suite, a web-based vision screening tool and smart phone application
- Technology, software maintenance, and system improvements
- Free vision screening kits and school-based resources
- Enhanced referral pathways and care navigation
- Data systems that track follow-up care and outcomes

The Fund ensures that schools, especially Title I schools and schools in rural districts, have the tools they need to meet Arizona's vision screening mandate and connect children and parents to screening and treatment.

Committee



Laura Kemp
Director
Eyes On Learning



Roy Pringle
CEO
Vitalyst Health Foundation



James O'Neil, MD
Co-Founder and Board Chair
VisionQuest 20/20



Richard Tirendi
CEO and Co-Founder
VisionQuest 20/20



Steve Zabalski
CEO
Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust

Children's Vision Fund

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Children's Vision Fund?

The Children's Vision Fund is a collaborative effort led by **Eyes On Learning, Vitalyst Health Foundation, VisionQuest 20/20**, and **Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust**. The Fund aims to raise and invest \$10 million dollars over the next four years, generating approximately \$500,000 annually to make affordable access to vision screening and vision treatment available to every Arizona school at no cost by investing in sustainable, statewide systems of care.

Who are the partners leading the charge and what are their roles?

The collaborative effort is guided by a cross-sector advisory board representing education, healthcare, public health, early childhood, philanthropy, and business. The partners include:

- **Eyes On Learning**, launched by Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust in 2015. Eyes On Learning, established as a coalition, brings together state agencies, schools, health providers, and community partners to ensure children receive regular screenings and follow-up care. Piper Trust fully funds Eyes On Learning's operations, ensuring that 100 percent of Children's Vision Fund donations go directly to children's vision health efforts. Laura Kemp is the Director of Eyes On Learning.
- **Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust**; led by Steve Zabilski, President and CEO.
- **VisionQuest 20/20**; led by Richard Tirendi, CEO, Co-Founder, and Board member, and Dr. James O'Neil, MD, a respected pediatric ophthalmologist, and statewide leader in children's vision health, he is also Co-Founder

and Board Chair of VisionQuest 20/20.

VisionQuest 20/20 is the creator of the EyeSpy 20/20 technology; this technology is key to children's vision services, and its use would be supported through the Children's Vision Fund.

- **Vitalyst Health Foundation**; represented by Roy Pringle, CEO; Roy has served on the Eyes On Learning Advisory Board since inception.

What the purpose of the Children's Vision Fund?

Affordable access to vision screening and vision treatment is the ultimate focus of the Children's Vision Fund. Currently, the best approach is through the EyeSpy 20/20 web-based vision screening tool and smart phone app. In time, additional tools may emerge that could be included and supported.

The Fund also supports:

- Statewide expansion of vision screening technology and software systems
- Direct funding for schools to maintain vision screening kits
- Innovative communication tools, including AI, to connect families, schools, and providers so children who fail screenings receive timely, affordable care.

Who will the Fund impact?

The partners leading this effort are committed to ensuring that all Arizona children, regardless of geography or income, receive the vision care they need to learn and thrive. This includes students in Title I schools, rural communities, and districts with limited access to health resources.

Children's Vision Fund **FAQs**

How and when will funds be deployed?

The \$10-million-dollar Children's Vision Fund will generate approximately \$500,000 annually, forming the core budget for technology, delivery, and software maintenance. The collaborative effort to grow the Fund runs through 2030 and has already secured over \$4 million in funding; funders to date include The Stardust Foundation, Steele Foundation, Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, Vitalyst Health Foundation, and The Diane and Bruce Halle Foundation. Eyes On Learning will steward the funds and ensure that every dollar raised goes straight to supporting children's vision screening and vision treatment as operating and administrative costs for Eyes On Learning are already fully funded.

What does success look like?

Success means every Arizona school, public or charter, rural or urban, has access to high quality vision screening tools and the systems needed to ensure children receive vision screening and eye care treatment. Schools are the primary focus, with potential future expansion into community settings like recreation centers.

Why does children's vision health matter?

- One in four school age children and one in 20 preschoolers have a vision problem.
- Most learning relies on visual processing.
- Uncorrected vision issues can hinder literacy, confidence, and long-term academic success.
- Without screening, many children go undiagnosed, sometimes resulting in permanent vision loss.

What is the vision screening mandate?

In 2019, the Eyes On Learning Coalition helped shape legislation requiring all Arizona public and charter schools to conduct regular vision screenings for young children. The legislation went into effect in the 2024-2025 school year, and the Children's Vision Fund will help make this mandate achievable, affordable, and effective, ensuring that 500,000 students will be screened annually.

How were schools selected to receive resources?

A small pilot program was launched in the 2023-24 school year with a limited number of schools. The response to the pilot program was overwhelmingly positive, leading to the need to expand statewide. Schools have become aware of Eyes On Learning offerings through outreach such as presentations at the School Nurses Organization of Arizona conference, partnerships with the Arizona Department of Education and Arizona Department of Health Services, and targeted marketing efforts.

Where is the Fund housed?

The Fund is held at Technical Assistance Partnership of Arizona (TAPAZ) which is an affiliate of Vitalyst Health Foundation. Financial oversight and spending policy guidance is available through Roy Pringle, CEO of Vitalyst Health Foundation and partner of the Children's Vision Fund collaborative effort.

For additional questions, contact:

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Children's Vision Fund Planning Budget

(Proposed Budget for EyeSpy 20/20, Current Recipient of Children's Vision Fund Support)

We aim to raise \$10 million by 2030 to make vision screening and treatment available to every Arizona school at no cost.

This goal of \$10 million represents the opportunity to invest funds that deliver an expected return of 7%–8%, providing approximately \$500,000 (5% of the Fund) annually to support the school vision screening program. Donations to this Fund will cover the costs of technology, delivery, and software maintenance/improvements. Schools would receive direct benefits such as screening kits and access to the technology systems and tools.

Children's Vision Fund Budget

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Personnel and Benefits	\$ 0	\$ 100,000	\$ 105,000
Health Suite Software & Systems	\$ 125,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Infrastructure Maintenance	\$ 40,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Vision Kits	\$ 100,000	\$ 103,000	\$ 106,000
Travel	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Vision GPS Software Development	\$ 200,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 75,000
Enhanced Care Navigation Infrastructure	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 30,000
Total	\$ 500,000	\$ 498,000	\$ 491,000

Every dollar raised supports the Fund's mission to advance children's vision health.