

Notification of Spinal Screenings



Fowler Middle School will conduct spinal screenings on February 25th & 26th for girls and boys in the 6th grade. The Texas State Legislature passed a law in 1985 that requires all sixth grade students to be screened for spinal deformities. The purpose of the spinal screening is to detect the signs of abnormal curves in 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 when they are first diagnosed. 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 severe deformity, which can affect a person's appearance and health.

The procedure for screening is simple. Screeners who have been specially trained will look at your child's back while he/she stands and then bends forward. **For this examination, boys and girls will be seen separately and individually.** The screening will take place during their PE time on A day and B day. Parents will be notified of the results of the screening **ONLY** if professional follow-up is necessary.

STUDENTS WILL BE IN THEIR GYM CLOTHES. ALL STUDENTS MUST REMOVE THEIR SHIRT FOR THIS SCREENING. FOR THIS REASON WE REQUEST THAT GIRLS WEAR A SPORTS BRA ON SCREENING DAY (Thursday and Friday).

According to the state law, all students in grades sixth and ninth must receive the spinal screening. If, for religious reasons, you do not wish to have your child screened, you are to submit an affidavit of religious exemption no later than **FEBRUARY 22, 2010.**

If you have any questions please call the Fowler clinic. Thank you for your cooperation.

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