



Fall 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Calgary Board of Education is pleased to announce that we are continuing to support the **Eye See...Eye Learn®** (ESEL) program. The ESEL program is designed, in cooperation with your local optometrist, to help detect, diagnose and treat Kindergarten aged children so they can see and learn to the best of their ability.

Good vision is an important part of learning.

- 80% of classroom learning is visual
- 1 in 4 children have some form of vision problem
- Up to 60% of children diagnosed with learning disabilities have undetected vision problems
- Don't assume children have good vision because they pass a vision screening with 20/20
- Children with poor vision often find it difficult to focus on their work

Alberta Health Care covers the cost of a comprehensive eye examination for those under the age of 19 years. After the eye exam, if your Kindergarten aged child is eligible, they may receive a free pair of glasses through the ESEL program.

If you currently do not have a family optometrist, go to www.optometrists.ab.ca and click on the "Find an Optometrist" feature. If you have any questions regarding the ESEL program, please contact the Program Coordinator at the Alberta Association of Optometrists (AAO) at (780) 451-6824 ext. 232 or 1-800-272-8843 ext. 232, or e-mail esel@optometrists.ab.ca.

Calgary Board of Education recognizes the important link between eye health and learning, and recommends comprehensive eye health examinations for all children, including those entering Kindergarten.

Sincerely,

Warren Johnson
Supervisor, Early Learning
Calgary Board of Education | www.cbe.ab.ca