



**WALL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Office of the Superintendent of Schools**  
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Dr. Tracy Handerhan  
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September 2022

**RE: Spinal Screening Program**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

In accordance with State Law 18A:40.3-5, which mandates a Spinal Screening Program, please be advised that all students in grades 5, 7, 9, and 11 will be screened to determine the presence or absence of Scoliosis (curvature of the spine). The Spinal Screening Program will take place during the time provided for physical education in the aforementioned grades.

The purpose of this program is to recognize the problem at its earliest stages so that the need for treatment can be determined. Spinal problems have been detected in about 4% of this age group and 2% have required active treatment or continued observation.

The procedure for screening is a simple one. Your child will be observed as s/he stands in front of the examiner and bends forward; from the back as she/he bends forward, and from the side as she/he bends forward. If an anomaly is suspected, the school Medical Officer will recheck the child at a later date. If s/he finds signs of a possible spinal abnormality, you will be notified in writing and requested to follow through with your own physician for further evaluation.

If you wish to have your child screened by your family physician, please notify the school nurse and have your physician forward a report to the school nurse at your child's school by the end of September.

If your child was previously referred for evaluation and is being monitored by your physician, please notify the nurse in the building that your child attends, or your child will be rescreened at the appropriate grade level. Thank you in advance for your cooperation to ensure compliance with this important student-health mandate.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tracy Handerhan  
Superintendent