



Thomas L. Hickner  
Bay County Executive



Joel Strasz MA  
Health Director

1200 Washington Avenue  
Bay City, Michigan 48708  
(989) 895-4003  
FAX (989) 895-4014  
TDD (989) 895-4049

### **NEWS RELEASE**

TO: Area Media Outlets  
FROM: Tracy Metcalfe  
DATE: September 24, 2013  
RE: **Bay County Health Department Gears Up For 2013-2014 Hearing & Vision Program**  
RUN: Immediate Release

Bay County Health Department staff is gearing up for another school year to provide **free** hearing and vision screenings to students in Bay County schools. Thousands of students will again receive the services of certified technicians at their schools.

Last year over 6500 students had 10% percent of those screened were referred to an eye doctor for further evaluation. Over 4,000 students were also screened in the hearing program with about 5% referred for medical attention from grades Kindergarten, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and Special Education.

Free hearing clinics are also sponsored by the Bay County Health Department with area Otologists participating in the program. In the spring, technicians will begin pre-school and pre-kindergarten screening programs at district roundups, schools, and preschools. Schedules will be available in early spring. Approximately 2,000 children will participate in this program. Home schooled children can contact the Health Department at (989) 895-2045 to schedule their **free** hearing and vision screening.

**Parents who do not wish to have their child participate in these screenings should notify the school.**

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