

School Nurse, Grade 4, Vision Screening Referrals

Overview

This Growth Objective was written by an elementary school nurse and is based on the vision screening and referral program that she provides. She has provided strong rationale and background for focusing on a goal to improve the **proportion of vision referrals** that are acted upon and returned by parents of the children the nurse screens. (It is important to note that she has **not** set a goal for the number of vision screenings she must complete. This is a required component of her job and is not an appropriate measure of her effectiveness as set forth in the Growth Objective process.) She has identified the previous poor return of vision referrals from parents as a potential obstacle to students getting the vision services they require, e.g. correct eye glasses prescription. Her goal is based upon a rough sense of prior years' referral completion and she has set a rigorous target for this year. Next year, if she uses a similar growth objective, she will have better starting point data to help her set targets.*

Name	School	Grade	Assignment	Number of Students	Time-frame
		4	School Nurse	92	October 1-April 11
Background, Rationale, and Assessment Method State the rationale for choosing this Growth Objective, including background as necessary. Name and briefly describe the format of the assessment method.					
Background Distance vision screening is an important part of the student health assessment. Students with visual impairments may not be aware of their deficit as these impairments usually occur as a gradual onset. Student learning is influenced by visual acuity. More than 80% of what children learn is through vision (Vision Council, 2009). Without intervention, there may be permanent vision loss, learning disabilities, behavior problems and school failures. (Selekman, J. (2006). <i>School Nursing: A Comprehensive Text</i> . F.A. Davis Company, Philadelphia: PA, pg 442). According to the Minnesota Department of Health, the average onset of myopia is 7-10 years of age. Vision screening is mandated by the State of New Jersey upon entry and every other school year.					
Rationale I have chosen to focus on the return percentage of vision referrals for all 4th grade students during the school year. Screening and referral for recommended interventions does not necessarily mean that students will receive these interventions. In prior years, although I refer several students for failing their screening, very few parents return their child's referral and it is not clear whether the students have received the services they require. My goal is the increase the number of referrals that are returned to me by parents. I will then be able to provide assistance to parents in locating appropriate service providers and financial assistance when needed.					
Assessment I will be conducting screenings beginning October 1 and monitor the number of vision referrals completed and returned by parents by April 11.					
Starting Points State the type of information being used to determine starting points and summarize scores for each type by group.					
I have 92 4th grade students that need to be screened. Based on screenings in prior years, I anticipate approximately 10-12% will be referred. In prior years, very few referrals are returned to me.					
Growth Objective Describe a measurable and specific goal.					
My goal is to have 80% vision referrals completed by parents and returned by April 11.					

Scoring Plan				
Goal	Attainment Level in Meeting Growth Objective			
	Percentage of Students			
	Exceptional (4)	Full (3)	Partial (2)	Insufficient (1)
Student Returns Referral	≥90%	≥80%	≥60%	<60%
Approval of Growth Objective				
Administrator approves scoring plan and assessment used to measure student learning.				
School Nurse _____ Signature _____			Date Submitted _____	
Evaluator _____ Signature _____			Date Approved _____	
Results of Growth Objective				
% Students at Target Score		Growth Objective Score		
12/14 (86%) referrals were returned indicating vision services had been provided to the students		3		
Notes				
Describe any changes made to Growth Objective after initial approval, e.g. because of changes in student population, other unforeseen circumstances, etc.				
Review Growth Objective at Annual Conference				
Describe successes and challenges, lessons learned from the Growth Objective about teaching and student learning, and steps to improve goals for next year.				
School Nurse _____ Signature _____			Date _____	
Evaluator _____ Signature _____			Date _____	

** Even though the role of the school nurse is significantly different from that of the classroom teacher, she can still set measurable and specific goals that reflect her professional responsibilities and effectiveness. However, it may be appropriate to modify the structure of the typical teacher SGO and SGO form to better suit the type goal set by nurses and other educational service professionals. Suggested changes in terminology and form structure can be seen in the form above. Educators should make modifications to the Department’s optional SGO forms as needed.*

SGOs are not a *required* component of the evaluation of Educational Service Professionals but the Department encourages their use as a valuable professional practice.

Acknowledgments

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