

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA



**PROCLAMATION**

August marks the beginning of an exciting new school year for countless children across our nation. However, 18 million of these children will not have an eye examination before they enter their classrooms, and many of these students will never receive the eye care they need to thrive in an academic environment. A strong correlation has been found between having good eyesight and performing successfully in school, and it is imperative that we eliminate the harmful effects of learning-related vision problems for good.

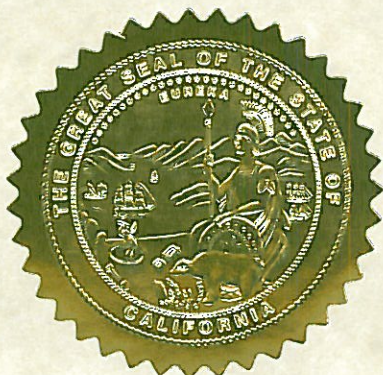
Children suffering from undiagnosed and untreated visual problems often have trouble reading and understanding their coursework. Research has shown that vision disorders are the number one handicapping condition for young people, with as many as one in four being affected. The issues created by such disorders are far-reaching and often manifest behaviorally. Sixty-percent of students identified as "problem learners" have undetected vision problems, as do seventy percent of juvenile offenders. Such statistics indicate that there are long-term disadvantages and repercussions that children may experience when we let their eyes go untreated.

Our Golden State has always prided itself on recognizing our younger generations as the leaders of tomorrow. Children's Vision and Learning Month honors this legacy and urges us to seek prompt treatment for vision problems when they arise in our youth. One study has shown that when children with visual impairments received care, they were able to advance their reading ability by two grade levels in only six months.

I join all Californians in acknowledging the important role good vision plays in a successful academic career, and the significant impact it has on our students' abilities to learn and engage effectively. Furthermore, I encourage parents, educators and other concerned caregivers to help our young people receive the assistance they need so that they can realize their full potential both in the classroom and beyond.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER**, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim August 2010, as "Children's Vision and Learning Month"

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 11th day of August 2010.



*Arnold Schwarzenegger*

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER  
Governor of California

ATTEST:

*Debra Bowen*

DEBRA BOWEN  
Secretary of State