

# Foundation for Appalachian Ohio's iSee Project Final Evaluation Report

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UC EVALUATION SERVICES CENTER  
*Data Inspiring Change*

The purpose of this report is to summarize cumulative findings from the final evaluation of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio's iSee project. Results in this report summarize important outcomes and lessons learned throughout the duration (2021-22 and 2022-23 school years).

## Project Background

In partnership with the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, Vision To Learn, and the Ohio Optometric Foundation, the iSee project uses mobile vision clinics to provide on site vision care to students across Appalachian counties in Ohio. This is an inaugural effort launched under the ResultsOHIO model, an infrastructure within the Ohio Treasurer's Office, where upfront project costs are funded by private investors and government repayment to investors only occurs if verifiable results are achieved.

# ResultsOHIO



## Project Evaluation

The University of Cincinnati Evaluation Services Center (UCESC) serves as the external, independent evaluator to measure the payment metrics and learning agenda for this project.



### Payment Metrics

These indicators determine the extent to which the project will be supported by public dollars. The payment metrics for the iSee project are:

- 1 Eye Exam Percentage:** Percentage of students who received eye exams from Vision To Learn in participating Title I schools in Appalachian Ohio, out of the total students consented and referred.
- 2 Eyeglasses Percentage:** Percentage of students who received eyeglasses from Vision To Learn in participating Title I schools in Appalachian Ohio, out of the total students who were prescribed glasses.



### Learning Agenda

Indicators support project learning and growth to answer questions beyond the payment metrics.

# Payment Metrics

## Data Sources & Analyses

Vision To Learn developed electronic health records for all students referred for an eye exam. Records were de-identified and provided to UCESC for data analysis. Datasets were cleaned, merged, and analyzed using SPSS statistical software.<sup>1</sup> Descriptive analyses were conducted to determine the extent to which the iSee project achieved target payment metrics.

## The iSee project served students attending schools in Appalachian Ohio

The mobile vision clinics were delivered in partnership with **23 school districts** serving students in grades K-12 across Appalachian Ohio (for the complete district list, see Appendix). After an initial screening, identified students were referred to the iSee mobile vision clinics for a comprehensive eye exam.

## The iSee project, by the numbers:

# 3974

Total students receiving an eye exam

# 3418

Total students prescribed eyeglasses

# 915

Total students referred for a serious eye condition

## ① The iSee project met the target metric for "Eye Exam Percentage"

# 96%

Total referred students receiving an eye exam

95% Year 1

96% Year 2

### Target achieved

Results indicate that the mobile vision clinics met the target payment metrics for both project years by providing comprehensive eye exams to over 90% of referred students within the 23 districts served in Appalachian Ohio.

## ② The iSee project met the target metric for "Eyeglasses Percentage"

# 100%

Total students prescribed glasses receiving new glasses

100% Year 1

100% Year 2

### Target achieved

Results indicate that the mobile vision clinics met the target payment metrics for both project years by providing new eyeglasses to over 90% of students prescribed eyeglasses within the 23 school districts served in Appalachian Ohio.

<sup>1</sup> IBM Corp. (2022). IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 28.0. Armonk, NY: IBM Corp.

# Learning Agenda

## Data Sources & Analyses

UCESC and the iSee project team developed an online survey to gather parents'<sup>2</sup> perspectives on the mobile vision clinic (for the full survey, see Appendix). District liaisons distributed a Qualtrics software survey link to parents through varied modes (e.g., text message, phone calls, social media, email, website). Some liaisons sent the link to all parents; others sent it only to parents of children who received eye exams. Not all districts participated. Datasets were cleaned, merged, and analyzed using SPSS statistical software.<sup>1</sup> Descriptive and inferential statistics were conducted to reveal basic data patterns and document student changes.

### Parents participated in a survey to provide feedback about the iSee project

Overall, parents shared positive perceptions of the iSee project through the online survey. While survey results from this limited sample are not representative of all parents, these findings provide an opportunity to explore the learning agenda for the iSee project.

**330**

Parents participated in feedback surveys

**62%**

Parents reported their child received an eye exam from the mobile vision clinic

**To gather perceptions of the mobile vision clinics,** parents of children who received eye exams were asked: *How satisfied are you with the services your child received at the vision clinic?* A total of 196 parents responded to this question.

**85%** Parents reported high levels of satisfaction with the mobile vision clinics

### Parents reported on the value of providing access to vision care and glasses

**To understand the service needs of the community,** parents of children who received glasses from the mobile vision clinics were asked: *If your child had not received glasses through the mobile vision clinic this year, would you have been able to get glasses somewhere else?* A total of 196 parents responded to this question.

**38%** Parents reported "No" or "I don't know" about their ability to obtain glasses elsewhere

**To understand how students utilized the glasses they received,** parents of children who received glasses from the mobile vision clinics were asked: *As far as you know, how often does your child wear glasses at school?* A total of 200 parents responded to this question.

**86%** Parents reported that their child wears their glasses every day or most days of the week

<sup>2</sup>For brevity, the term "parents" is used to represent parents, guardians, or caregivers who responded to the survey.

# Learning Agenda, continued

## Parents reported on the value of the referrals for serious eye conditions

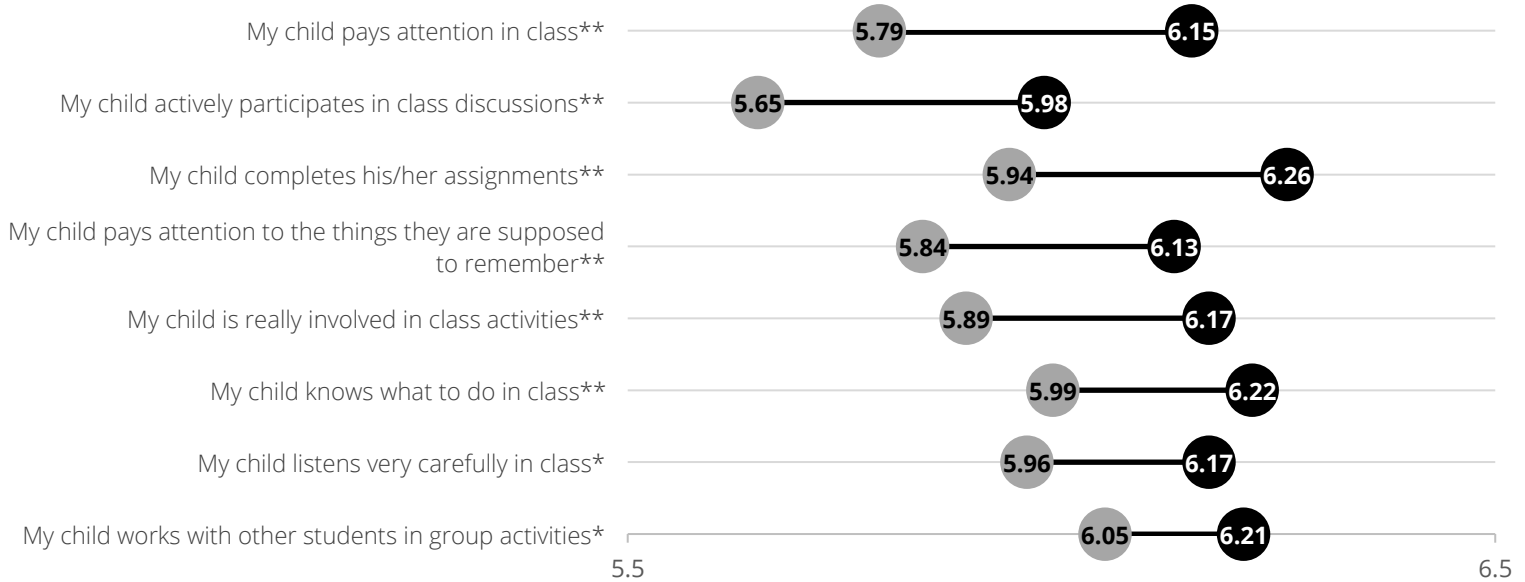
In addition to providing glasses, the mobile vision clinics also identified children who needed further assessment for serious eye conditions. Parents who reported that their child received a referral were asked: *Were you able to get your child to the doctor for help with the serious eye condition?* A total of 22 parents responded to this question.

**68%** Parents reported that they were able to get their child to the doctor for help with an eye condition

## Parents reported the impact of the iSee project on student outcomes

Parents of children who received glasses or referrals for a serious eye condition were asked to reflect on their child's class participation before and after receiving glasses or treatment. A range of 164 to 177 parents responded to each of these questions. The figure below summarizes average parent responses (from a possible range of 1 to 7) that demonstrated statistically significant changes, meaning changes were greater than could be expected by chance (for additional guidance on interpreting results, see Appendix).

Parents on average observed **many significant positive changes** in their child's class participation from **before** to **after** receiving glasses or treatment.



Notes. Responses ranged from 0 = Not true at all, to 7 = Very true; \*results are statistically significant at  $p < .05$ , \*\*results are significant at  $p < .01$

## About the authors



The University of Cincinnati Evaluation Services Center has served as an independent evaluator for hundreds of projects in Ohio and nationally since its founding in 1996. The UCESC team of specialists has expertise in statistics, measurement, assessment, and qualitative research methods within the fields of education and public health.

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## Appendix

This appendix summarizes additional information regarding the Final Evaluation report for the iSee Project.

### Notes on processes for student eye screening

School partners choose to use an **Opt Out** or **Opt In** consent model for obtaining parent/guardian consent for school-based vision screening. The Opt In model requires the parents/guardians to register their student to receive a comprehensive exam and no screening is required.

The Opt Out model—the more common approach—notifies parents/guardians of the iSee program and asks that they return the consent form only if they do not want their child to participate. For school partners with an Opt Out consent, all students who physically attend the school (grades K-12) receive a vision screening to determine the need for a comprehensive eye exam.

Screenings are conducted by school nurses, community partners, and/or Vision To Learn. Students that do not pass their initial screening are referred to the iSee mobile vision clinics with Vision To Learn program for a full eye exam and glasses, as appropriate.

### Project metrics summary: Year to Year comparisons

	Year 1	Year 2	Totals
Students received an eye exam	1841	2133	3974
Students prescribed glasses	1535	1883	3418
Students received eyeglasses	1535	1883	3418
Students referred for a serious eye condition	425	490	915

### Technical notes on statistical significance

In the Final Evaluation Report, results that were identified as **statistically significant** include the p-value as a footnote below the figure. P-values, or “probability values”, are used to communicate whether results have reached statistical significance, which is another way to describe how likely it is that a finding *has not* occurred due to random chance. In other words, *the smaller the p-value for a statistical test, the greater the evidence* that a given result is not due to random chance.

Researchers have deemed that a p-value less than or equal to .05 ( $p \leq .05$ ), is a common criterion for reporting a result as statistically significant. If the p-value is even smaller than .05 (such as  $p \leq .01$ ), there is even greater confidence that the results are not due to random chance.

# School Districts & Student Participants

Year 1		
School Districts	# of students receiving eye exams	# of students receiving eyeglasses
Caldwell Exempted Village School District	98	82
Cambridge City School District	301	250
East Guernsey Local School District	116	91
Logan-Hocking School District	352	292
New Philadelphia City School District	123	109
Noble Local School District	117	74
Rolling Hills Local School District	242	198
Vinton County Local Schools	225	202
Western Local School District	70	57
Zanesville City School District	197	180
<b>Year 1 Total</b>	<b>1841</b>	<b>1535</b>

Year 2		
School Districts	# of students receiving eye exams	# of students receiving eyeglasses
Athens City School District	122	102
Belpre City School District	137	121
Eastern Local Schools	130	113
Federal-Hocking Local School District	136	104
Jackson City Schools	287	282
Morgan Local School District	76	57
Nelsonville-York City School District	265	231
New Lexington School District	241	230
Scioto Valley Local	96	95
Southern Local Schools	122	82
Trimble Local School District	172	153
Wellston City Schools	182	166
Zane Trace Local Schools	167	147
<b>Year 2 Total</b>	<b>2133</b>	<b>1883</b>
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>3974</b>	<b>3418</b>

# Parent & Guardian Survey Questions

1. As a parent or guardian, how many of your children attend [*school name*]? 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, More than 5.
2. Did any of your children receive glasses or referral for a serious eye condition at [*school name*]?  
Yes, my child received glasses  
Yes, my child was referred for a serious eye condition  
Yes, my child received glasses and was referred for a serious eye condition  
No, my child did not receive glasses or a vision referral
3. Did your child wear glasses before they received glasses at [*school name*]? Yes / No
4. If your child had not received glasses at [*school name*] this year, would you have been able to get glasses somewhere else for your child? Yes / No / I don't know
5. How satisfied are you with services your child received at the vision clinic at [*school name*]?  
Extremely satisfied / Very satisfied / Moderately satisfied / Slightly satisfied / Not at all satisfied
6. As far as you know, how often does your child wear glasses at school?  
Every day / Most days of the week / Once or twice a week / Only once in a while / Hardly ever / I don't know / My child does not need to wear glasses at school
7. Did your children receive a referral from [*school name*] for a serious eye condition, such as lazy eye (amblyopia) or an eye turn (strabismus)? Yes / No / I don't know
8. Were you able to get your child to the doctor for help with the serious eye condition?  
Yes / No / Planning to bring child to doctor per doctor's recommendation
9. Please tell us more about your experience getting your child help with the serious eye condition. For example, was it difficult to find a doctor, make an appointment, or get transportation? [Open response]
10. How likely are you to make an appointment with an optometrist for follow-up vision care for your child in the next year? Very Likely / Likely / Unlikely / Very Unlikely
11. What additional support or information do you need to be able to get your child follow up vision care with a local optometrist in the next year? [Open response]
12. For the following questions, think about your child's class participation BEFORE and AFTER they received glasses or treatment.  
1 = Not at all true, 7 = Very true, 0 = I don't know  
My child listens very carefully in class  
My child pays attention to the things he/she is supposed to remember  
My child completes his/her assignments  
My child gets really involved in class activities  
My child actively participates in class discussions  
My child works with other students in group activities  
My child pays attention in class  
My child knows what to do in class

## Parent & Guardian Survey Questions, continued

- 13.** After receiving glasses/treatment, have you seen any of the following changes in your child?  
[Select all that apply]  
More enthusiastic for learning  
More willing to do homework  
Fewer complaints about eye issues or headaches  
Improved grades (For example: English, Reading, Math)  
Other changes [Open response]  
I have not seen any changes in my child after receiving glasses
- 14.** Are you aware that a vision clinic was offered at [*school name*] during the [*school year*]? Yes / No
- 15.** Does your child have an optometrist where they can get regular vision care? Yes / No / I don't know
- 16.** If your child needs glasses or vision care in the future, what would be the best way for you to get that care?  
Make appointment at local optometrist  
Vision clinic at school  
I don't know  
Other [Open response]
- 17.** Is there anything else you would like to share about vision care at [*school name*]? [Open response]