

Foundation for Appalachian Ohio's iSee Project Key Findings from Year 1 Evaluation

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UC EVALUATION SERVICES CENTER
Data Inspiring Change

The purpose of this report is to summarize key findings from the University of Cincinnati Evaluation Services Center evaluation of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio's iSee project's first year of implementation (2021-22 school year). The iSee project will continue for a second year of implementation in the 2022-23 school year, and a comprehensive report will be available at the conclusion of the project.

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 school-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

These indicators support the learning and growth of the project 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. 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

In the 2021-22 school year, mobile vision clinics were delivered in partnership with 10 school districts serving students in grades K-12. 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:

1841 Students received an eye exam


1535 Students were prescribed eyeglasses

425 Students were referred for a serious eye condition

Students Receiving Eye Exam (2021-2022)	
School Districts	Students
Caldwell Exempted Village School District	98
Cambridge City School District	301
East Guernsey Local School District	116
Logan-Hocking School District	352
New Philadelphia City School District	123
Noble Local School District	117
Rolling Hills Local School District	242
Vinton County Local Schools	225
Western Local School District	70
Zanesville City School District	197
Total	1841


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

95%
Referred students received an eye exam

 **Target achieved**
Results indicate that the mobile vision clinics met the target payment metric by providing comprehensive eye exams to over 90% of referred students within the ten school districts served in Appalachian Ohio.

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

100%
Students prescribed glasses received new glasses

 **Target achieved**
Results indicate that the mobile vision clinics met the target payment metric by providing new eyeglasses to over 90% of students prescribed eyeglasses within the ten school districts served in Appalachian Ohio.

¹ IBM Corp. (2020). IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 27.0. Armonk, NY: IBM Corp.



Learning Agenda

Data Sources & Analyses

UCESC partnered with the iSee project team to develop an online survey to gather perspectives from parents and guardians² about their experiences with the mobile vision clinic. District liaisons (e.g., district staff, nurses) from participating schools were identified to distribute survey links to parents. Each liaison developed unique distribution strategies, including survey reach (i.e., all parents within the district or only parents of children who received eye exams) and recruitment methods (e.g., text message, phone calls, social media, email, district website). Parents responded to the survey questions using Qualtrics, an online survey platform.

Datasets were cleaned, merged, and analyzed using SPSS statistical software. Descriptive and inferential statistics were conducted to reveal basic data patterns and document student changes. Responses to open-ended survey questions were reviewed to understand meaning and then grouped into thematic categories. Key quantitative findings are presented with themes from open-ended comments to add additional context.



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

UCESC partnered with four school districts to gather parent perspectives on the iSee project. Due to differences in parent responses, it should be noted that responses largely represent perspectives of parents from two districts: Cambridge City School District & Rolling Hills Local School District. While survey results from this limited sample is not representative to all parents, these findings provide an opportunity to begin exploring the learning agenda for the iSee project.

Survey included:

191 Parents participated in feedback surveys

48% Parents reported their child received an eye exam from the mobile vision clinic

Parent Survey Responses	
School Districts	Parents
Cambridge City School District	52
East Guernsey Local School District	12
Rolling Hills Local School District	122
Zanesville City School District	5
Total	191

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 84 parents responded to this question.

78% 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 84 parents responded to this question.

39% Parents reported "No" or "I don't know" about their ability obtain glasses elsewhere

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

Learning Agenda, continued

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 88 parents responded to this question.

83% Parents reported that their child wears their glasses every day or most days of the week

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

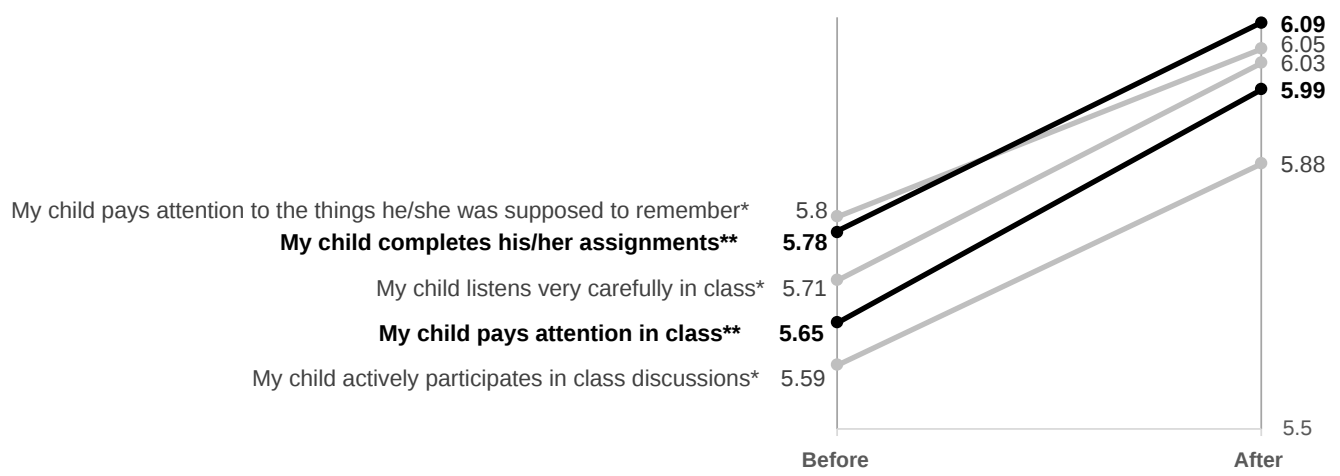
In addition to providing glasses, the mobile vision clinics also identified children who needed further assessment for serious eye conditions. Parents who reported that their child received a referral were asked: Were you able to get your child to the doctor for help with the serious eye condition? A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

78% 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 75 to 81 parents responded to each of these questions. Results in the figure below demonstrate changes that were statistically significant, meaning changes were greater than could be expected by chance.

Overall, parents observed many significant positive changes in their child's class participation 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



UC EVALUATION SERVICES CENTER
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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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