

**TAZEWELL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCOLIOSIS SCREENING INFORMATION FORM
FOR GRADES 6, 7, AND 8**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

During the school year, the Tazewell County Public Schools will conduct a scoliosis-screening program. Scoliosis is a lateral curvature of the spine. According to current medical information, scoliosis most commonly occurs in children ages 9 - 14. Also, scoliosis is more common in girls but also can be found in boys. Two – four percent of the population may have some degree of curvature. If the condition is detected early and appropriately treated, progressive deformity of the spine can be prevented and the child can be protected from the emotional and physical pains of deformity.

The procedure for screening is a simple one, in which the screener, the school health nurse, looks at the child's back while he or she is standing or is in the forward bending position. The nurse uses a device called a scoliometer to measure any curvature of the spine. This is done by gently placing the scoliometer against the back.

If your child has a possible abnormal curvature, you will be notified and asked to take your child to your family physician, pediatrician or orthopedist for diagnosis. If you should receive such notice, you should plan to take your child for follow-up exam as soon as possible.

Treatment depends on the degree of curvature. Some children may require observation to determine if the curvature is getting worse. Sometimes treatment may involve bracing or even surgery.

We provide screening for scoliosis for children enrolled in Tazewell County Public Schools but your child may also be examined by Health Department or your child's health care provider.

Your child will be screened UNLESS you sign the declination form provided for you in the Tazewell County Public School Calendar for this school year. If you DO NOT want your child to be screened, the declination must be completed and turned in to the School Nurse prior to the scoliosis screening date.

Scoliosis screening is planned for November 12th for boys and November 13th for girls at TMS. Please have you child wear a shirt that will be easily removed. Girls may wear a sports bra or a bathing suit top. Boys and girls are screened separately, usually during PE classes.



Sincerely,

School Health Services