

[Yahoo!](#) [My Yahoo!](#) [Mail](#)

Search the Web

YAHOO! FINANCE [Sign In](#)
New User? [Sign Up](#)

[Finance Home](#) - [Help](#)


PRNewswire

Welcome [\[Sign In\]](#)

To track stocks & more, [Register](#)

Financial News

Enter symbol(s) Basic [Symbol Lookup](#)



Top Stories

- [Stocks End Up on Merger News, Home Sales](#) - Associated Press (4:33 pm)
- [Valero Plans to Buy Premcor in \\$6.9B Deal](#) - Associated Press (1:41 pm)
- [Arthur Andersen Settles World Com Lawsuit](#) - Associated Press (3:30 pm)
- [Oil Prices Fall As Bush, Saudi Prince Meet](#) - Associated Press (3:36 pm)

[More...](#)

- [Most-emailed articles](#)
- [Most-viewed articles](#)

Press Release

Source: College of Optometrists in Vision Development

Poor Performance on Standardized Tests Can Signal a Vision Problem According to the College of Optometrists in Vision Development

Thursday April 14, 5:06 am ET

ST. LOUIS, April 14 /PRNewswire/ -- While the debate continues regarding President Bush's "No Child Left Behind" educational initiatives, billions of dollars are spent every year in preparation for standardized tests. Tutoring to pass and excel on tests is booming, yet many parents and educators often overlook a more effective solution.

Poor performance on standardized tests could signal that the child has an undiagnosed vision problem according to the College of Optometrists in Vision Development (COVD).

"A three year study of 540 children found that those children who had visual perceptual and eye movement difficulties did poorly on standardized tests," says Dr. Lynn Hellerstein, developmental optometrist and President of COVD.

Unfortunately, parents and educators often incorrectly assume that if a child passes a school vision screening, then there is no vision problem. However, school vision screenings often only test for visual acuity.

In reality, Hellerstein says, the vision skills needed for successful reading and learning are much more complex. A child who can see the eye chart just fine ("20/20" eyesight) can still have a vision problem.

Vision is a complex process that involves over 20 visual abilities and more than 65% of all the pathways to the brain. One in four children has an undiagnosed vision problem, which can interfere with learning and lead to academic and/or behavioral problems.

Dr. Hellerstein cautions parents, "It is important to know that these children frequently do not report symptoms because they think everyone sees the same way they do."

Often a child with a vision-based learning problem has excellent verbal skills causing parents and educators to think the child must be "lazy", "not trying hard enough", "AD(H)D", "learning disabled", etc.

Is your child at risk? Dr. Hellerstein says parents should consider some of these more common signs:

- Avoids "near" work (e.g. reading)
- Frequently loses place when reading
- Omits, inserts or rereads letters/words
- Confuses similar looking words
- Fails to recognize the same word in the next sentence
- Poor reading comprehension
- Reverses letters or words after the first grade
- Difficulty copying from the chalkboard
- Poor handwriting; misaligns numbers
- Holds book too close to the eyes
- Squinting, eye rubbing or excessive blinking
- Headaches after reading
- Head tilting, closing or blocking one eye when reading
- Smart in everything but school

Anyone of these symptoms could signal a possible vision problem. To determine if your child has a vision-based learning problem, a vision evaluation by a Developmental Optometrist is needed.

A developmental vision evaluation is different from a regular eye exam in that it provides in-depth testing of: eye movement control, focusing near to far, sustaining clear focus, eye teaming ability, depth perception, visual motor integration, form perception, visual memory and visual perceptual skills.

For more information or for a referral to a doctor who provides Developmental Vision

Evaluations go to <http://www.covd.org> or call the College of Optometrists in Vision Development at (888) 268-3770.

Source: College of Optometrists in Vision Development

 [Email Story](#)

 [Set News Alert](#)

 [Print Story](#)

Sponsor Results

[Debt Consolidation - Preferred Financial](#)

Reduce credit card debt by up to 50%, using debt negotiation & debt consolidation. This is not a loan; you must have at least \$10,000 unsecured debt to qualify. Preferred financial services.

www.pfs1.net

[Christian Debt Consolidation Services](#)

Professional non-profit debt consolidation with a Christian perspective. Lower your monthly payments. Reduce or eliminate high interest rates. Apply now for a free no obligation quote.

www.christiandebtconsolidation.org

[Student Loan Consolidation with Citibank](#)

Consolidate student loans with Citibank for one convenient monthly payment, various repayment plans, online bill payment, and more. No credit check, no application or processing fees.

studentloan.citibank.com

[\(What's This?\)](#)

Copyright © 2005 Yahoo! Inc. All rights reserved. [Privacy Policy](#) - [Terms of Service](#) - [Copyright Policy](#) - [Ad Feedback](#)
Copyright © 2005 [PR Newswire](#). All rights reserved. Republication or redistribution of PRNewswire content is expressly prohibited without the prior written consent of PRNewswire. PRNewswire shall not be liable for any errors or delays in the content, or for any actions taken in reliance thereon.