



Boys & Girls Club of Santa Monica

Progress on Public Funding

Vision To Learn was born and bred in California, and the Golden State continues to be its largest region. Last year Vision To Learn helped over 100,000 students in 14 counties, from San Diego to the Bay Area, and even in rural communities of the Eastern Sierras. Nearly 30,000 students received eye exams and more than 25,000 were provided with glasses. New projects were launched in the Inland Empire and Orange County, and Vision To Learn received county-based service grants in San Francisco, Riverside, and San Mateo.

Vision To Learn also made important progress towards receiving more public funding for the program. For the first time the state's largest Medi-Cal vision insurer, VSP, contracted Vision To Learn as a provider, allowing the program to seek reimbursement for covered students. In addition to ongoing Vision To Learn contracts with Envolve Vision, March Vision, and regional insurers like the Health Plan of San Mateo, this enabled the first substantial Medi-Cal revenue for our California program. In the coming year, Vision To Learn expects the share of our costs covered by public reimbursement to grow.

“Nothing beats hearing a child stating that they can see the smart board more clearly now!”

— School Nurse
Inglewood High

More good news on the public reimbursement front came from the passage of Senate Bill 502, signed by Governor Gavin Newsom in the early fall, which requires California’s Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to utilize untapped federal funding to support Vision To Learn’s service for uninsured kids. In the coming year, DHCS and Vision To Learn will jointly develop a “Health Services Initiative” to accomplish this goal. The first payments from this new endeavor are anticipated to begin in 2025.

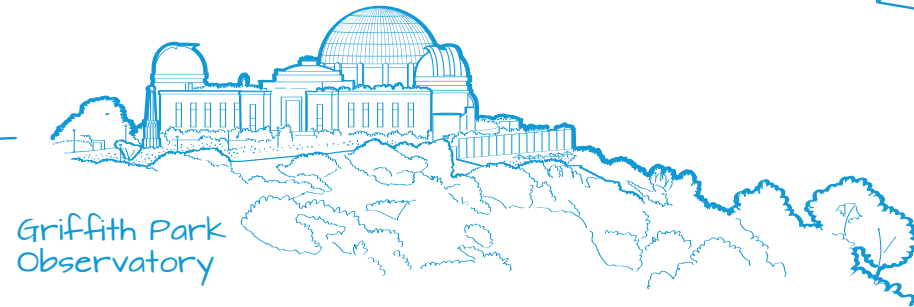
Correcting Vision, Addressing Stress

Hannah was only a month into the 2nd grade when Vision To Learn visited her school in Los Angeles. While her classmates expressed excitement about starting the new year, Hannah remained quiet. Assuming she was just a little shy, the optometrist asked her how she was liking school. Hannah looked down and said quietly, “It is so stressful because I can’t read yet and all my friends can.”

After the optometrist gave her an exam, they discovered the reason Hannah was having trouble reading: she was very farsighted with a high astigmatism, causing her to be unable to see clearly the words on the page. Having identified the problem, Vision To Learn provided Hannah with a brand new pair of glasses. When she put them on, her face lit up and she said she couldn’t wait to go to class with them.

2022 - 2023

Exams and glasses by area



473
SITES
SERVED



CALIFORNIA



Exams



Glasses

AREA

BAY AREA	6,682	5,823
CENTRAL CALIFORNIA	40	37
INLAND EMPIRE	4,916	3,631
LOS ANGELES, ORANGE, + VENTURA COUNTIES	15,109	13,259
SACRAMENTO AREA	75	55
SAN DIEGO	2,982	2,603
SIERRAS	168	160

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