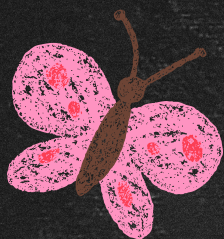


# SIGNS A STUDENT IN YOUR CLASS MAY HAVE AN UNDETECTED VISION PROBLEM

## And How to Help: A Resource for Classroom Teachers



### Seating Preferences and Classroom Behavior

- Students with undiagnosed myopia, or “nearsightedness”, may choose to sit close to the board or squint frequently trying to read the board.
- Students with diagnosed visual impairments may struggle in round-table seating arrangements that require frequent gaze shifts.
- Watch for frequent eye rubbing, head tilting, or even covering one eye while reading. These may be warning signs of eye strain. (Source: AAPOS)

### Reading and Academic Performance

Students reading below grade level, struggling with spelling, or showing long pauses and frequent loss of place may be dealing with a vision issue rather than, or in addition to, a learning or behavioral disability.



### Emotional and Behavioral Signals

- Chronic eye strain and untreated vision loss can trigger frustration and low self-esteem. Look for these patterns, especially in students who otherwise have no clear explanation for their distress.
- Students who avoid reading aloud or disengage during visual tasks may be compensating for an undiagnosed vision problem.

If you suspect a student is facing vision issues, document your observations and refer the student to the school nurse for a vision screening!

Students who fail screenings may be eligible for a comprehensive eye exam from a volunteer pediatric ophthalmologist through All Children See.

