

**New York's eye physicians are focused on the future of patient safety.**



**New York State Ophthalmological Society**

## What is an ophthalmologist?

An Ophthalmologist is a medical or osteopathic doctor who specializes in diagnosing and treating diseases of the eye including medical, surgical and vision care management. Ophthalmologists (Eye MDs) are extensively trained to provide the full spectrum of eye care services, from prescribing glasses and contact lenses to the use of a wide range of medications to complex and delicate eye surgery. Many Eye MDs are also involved in scientific research into the causes and cures for eye diseases and vision problems.

In addition to four years of medical school and one year of internship, every Eye MD spends a minimum of three years in residency (hospital-based education) in ophthalmology and many go on to fellowship subspecialty training. During that time, building on their years in medical school, eye physicians diagnose or treat thousands of patients with eye diseases and sight threatening conditions. Each Eye MD receives special training in all aspects of eye care including prevention, diagnosis, medical and surgical treatment of ophthalmic conditions.

## What is NYSOS?

The New York State Ophthalmological Society (NYSOS) is a non-profit organization whose member Ophthalmologists promote the preservation of vision, the prevention of blindness and the effective utilization of scientific knowledge and medical capabilities for the benefit of all of New York State residents.

## We ask for your support of these legislative bills that promote patient safety:

### **School-Age Vision Screening - A.8608/S.5130**

This bill proposes mandatory vision screening for children entering school, and periodically thereafter, and requires a follow-up eye examination, at a free or reduced cost, for those identified with a vision disorder.

Good vision is essential for educational growth and success in school-age children. This is why basic vision screening at an early age and follow-up vision examinations for those who are found to have a problem can help ensure that children are prepared to learn.

Early detection provides the best opportunity for effective, timely treatment. The American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus, the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American Association of Certified Orthoptists recommend early vision screening and support the concepts of this legislation.

**To learn more about NYSOS, please visit our website: [www.nysos.com](http://www.nysos.com)**