



## **Georgia Department of Public Health**

### **Form #4400**

#### **Certificate of Scoliosis Screening**

##### ***What is scoliosis?***

Scoliosis is an abnormal curvature of the spine. If detected early in a child's life, it may be possible to treat the condition and prevent it from becoming more serious.

##### ***Who is required to file this Form #4400?***

The parent or guardian of a student entering the 6<sup>th</sup> grade shall furnish to school authority a properly executed DPH Form #4400, Certificate of Scoliosis screening, as early as the first day of 5<sup>th</sup> and no later than 90 days after the student begins 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The parent or guardian of a student entering the 8<sup>th</sup> grade shall furnish to school authority a properly executed Form #4400, Certificate of Scoliosis screening, as early as the first day of 7<sup>th</sup> and no later than 90 days after the student begins 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

These time periods were chosen because these are the years when rapid growth occurs, and scoliosis is most likely to become observable.

##### ***What is the purpose of Form #4400?***

Form #4400 is intended to ensure every child in Georgia public schools is screened for spinal deformities. The earlier these problems are detected the earlier parents/guardians can seek professional help for their student.

##### ***What screenings are required?***

The "Adams Forward Bend Test" is required, and the results must be documented on the Form #4400 before it is filed with the school. The Adams Forward Bend test is a simple painless observation of the child's back as he or she stands and bends over.

##### ***Who can conduct the screenings?***

The test can be conducted by a physician with an active GA license or person working under the supervision of a physician with an active GA license, the local health department, and licensed school nurses.

##### ***What should a parent do if the "Needs further evaluation" box is checked?***

If the "Needs further evaluation" box is checked, then the parent/guardian should take the student to a medical provider for a more detailed evaluation. Your physician or local health department may be able to help or recommend someone who can help.

##### ***What if a Form #4400 was previously filed for the child at another school?***

Form #4400 should become part of the student's permanent record. If a student transfers schools, the school where the form was filed is required to forward Form #4400 to the new school.

##### ***What happens if Form #4400 is not completed for students in 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades?***

Students without Form #4400 on file will be screened by school staff during a mass scoliosis screening event during the school year.