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Alcon Champions Access to Eye Care with Opening of Children's Vision Center in Fort Worth, Texas

- **A first-of-its-kind partnership between the Alcon Foundation and Fort Worth Independent School District (FWISD)**
- **Vision screenings, access to comprehensive eye exams and prescription glasses provided free of charge**
- **One in five FWISD students failed their vision screening in 2021, and only 53% received a follow-up exam¹**

FORT WORTH, January 9, 2023 – Alcon, the global leader in eye care dedicated to helping people see brilliantly, today announced the grand opening of the Alcon Children's Vision Center (Center). Located at 8376 Mojave Trail in Fort Worth, Texas, the Center is a first-of-its-kind partnership between the Alcon Foundation and the Fort Worth Independent School District (FWISD). The Center offers comprehensive eye exams as well as prescription glasses and access to Eye Care Professionals specialized in pediatric eye care in the Fort Worth community. Conveniently located, the Center is also available for follow-up appointments and ongoing eye care, all free of charge for qualified students in need, from Pre-Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade.

"Alcon believes everyone should have the opportunity to see brilliantly, regardless of their age or income. We are proud to support this important initiative because when kids can see better, they can learn better," said David Endicott, CEO of Alcon. "Watching a child put on their first pair of glasses, and the look of joy and amazement on their face at being able to see clearly, is incredibly powerful. They are literally seeing the world in a completely new way and will be better equipped for success in school and beyond."

The Center's grand opening is an expansion and continuation of a 2021-2022 pilot which provided 35,000 free vision screenings and identified 3,000 students in Pre-Kindergarten through Fifth Grade who received additional eye exams and glasses. This pilot found that one-in-five children in FWISD failed their vision screening, and only 53% received a follow-up exam,¹ hindering their academic success and general health and well-being.

The Center seeks to help FWISD families overcome barriers to accessing comprehensive eye care for their children. Working together with school nurses and certified volunteers, vision screenings are performed at school on all students Pre-Kindergarten through Fifth Grade. Any student who fails the vision screening is sent home with a referral to have an eye exam. Students that are unable to access care through insurance or local providers can fill out a consent form to receive a comprehensive eye exam on-site at the school free of charge. Prescription glasses, if needed, are also provided free of charge. Appointments can also be made at the Alcon Children's Vision Center

as needed by texting (682) 628-2531 with a referral from the school nurse. With a clinic strictly dedicated to providing care to students, Alcon now has the ability to bring care to the large number of students who in the past never received a follow-up exam.

Studies show that 80% of classroom learning is visual,² and students who do not have access to vital eye care are also at a greater risk of eye and other health conditions. According to [Read Fort Worth](#), children not reading on level in Third Grade are four times more likely not to graduate high school, with even starker disparities for minority students not reading at a college-ready pace. Last year, [Alcon announced a commitment](#) to help improve vision and enhance academic success by providing 150,000 vision screenings to children and ensuring comprehensive care for those in need.

To learn more about Alcon's Children Vision Center visit [AlconCVC.org](#) or call (682) 628-2531.

About Alcon Foundation

For more than 50 years, Alcon has partnered with non-profit organizations that help advance eye health, skills transfer, education and access to quality eye care around the world. The Alcon Foundation awards grants to qualified, U.S.-based tax-exempt public 501(c)(3) charities that provide high-quality programs, training and community services with well-defined goals to enhance sight and improve the lives of people who otherwise would not have access to proper eye care. For more information, visit www.alcon.com/about-us/corporate-responsibility/eye-care-everyone.

About Alcon

Alcon helps people see brilliantly. As the global leader in eye care with a heritage spanning over 75 years, we offer the broadest portfolio of products to enhance sight and improve people's lives. Our Surgical and Vision Care products touch the lives of more than 260 million people in over 140 countries each year living with conditions like cataracts, glaucoma, retinal diseases and refractive errors. Our more than 24,000 associates are enhancing the quality of life through innovative products, partnerships with Eye Care Professionals and programs that advance access to quality eye care. Learn more at www.alcon.com.

References

1. Alcon data on file. Audit conducted in 2021 among Fort Worth ISD Students.
2. UCLA Study: Impact Analysis of Vision to Learn

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