**What is it?**

Peek Acuity and hearScreen® are mobile, electronic screening tools that provide data on vision and hearing impairments. The tools were designed to be administered in schools and classrooms so that teachers and schools can better accommodate visually- or hearing-impaired students to increase their opportunities of succeeding in school.

**How does it work?**

Using a smartphone or tablet loaded with clinically-validated software, a screener (e.g. teacher or school medical staff/nurse) administers the hearing test by placing a noise-minimizing headset on the student and, while standing behind him or her, asks the student to respond to a series of beeps by raising his or her hand. The screening app plays beeps at various frequencies and at different noise levels (decibels) to detect to what degree a student may have trouble hearing and in which ear(s).

To administer the vision test, the screener stands facing the student and holds a device showing the letter “E” which rotates and changes in size (representing different vision levels). The child alternately covers one eye and is asked to respond by pointing in the direction that the symbol is facing. The test detects whether a child is having trouble seeing, at what severity level, and in which eye.

**What’s next?**

RTI recently used the hearing and visions test in Ethiopia (2016) for a small pilot intervention with teachers, and in the Philippines (2018) to determine reliability of the apps in Filipino schools. Data from the Ethiopia pilot revealed a higher number of referral rates for vision and hearing than current prevalence data in the country suggests. Findings from the Philippines study revealed the necessity of piloting and adjusting the tools to improve their reliability in new contexts.

The pilots also increased awareness among teachers and administrators of potential disabilities among students and emphasized the need for inclusive education for successful learning in the classroom.

**Contact**

Kellie Betts, Education Analyst
International Education
+1.919.541.8017
kbetts@rti.org

www.rti.org/idg_education
https://shared.rti.org/
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