

## SCOLIOSIS

August 2013

Screening adolescent students for scoliosis has been a traditional practice of health services in the Barron Area School District. The **U. S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends against the routine screening of asymptomatic adolescents for idiopathic scoliosis.** BASD has decided to discontinue scoliosis screening.

Because we will no longer be formally checking your adolescent's back at school, we are providing some basic information so you can monitor your own child for scoliosis.

The vast majority of scoliosis is "idiopathic", meaning its cause is unknown. It usually develops in middle childhood. Our screening has occurred in girls at 10 and 12 years and in boys at age 13 or 14 years.

Parents should watch for the following "tip-offs" to scoliosis :

- Uneven shoulders
- Shoulders at different heights, or one shoulder blade is more prominent
- Uneven waist
- One hip appears higher
- Rib cage is uneven

Any one of these signs warrants an examination by the family physician, pediatrician, or orthopedist.

If you suspect scoliosis and would like health staff at the school to check your child, please call and let us know. Scoliosis checks will be provided upon request.