

Many children in Brazil struggle in school because they have vision problems like short-sightedness (myopia) or long-sightedness (hyperopia). **Around 380,000 children and adolescents in Brazil have these vision issues.**



Learning loss

When children can't see well, they can't learn as much as their classmates. This affects their education and future career opportunities.

Schoolchildren with poor vision learn approximately



as those with good or corrected vision

In Brazil

311,570
years of schooling
are lost

to uncorrected refractive error every year

The economic impact

Poor vision in children can lead to lower educational achievement, which affects the ability to earn a good income in the future. Brazil loses billions of reals every year from failing to address vision problems in children.

One year of sub-optimal learning due to uncorrected refractive error



The benefit of addressing poor vision

Each child with uncorrected refractive error in Brazil faces having to lose thousands in future income. If a five-year-old with poor vision in Brazil is provided with glasses in primary school and continues to wear them until they are 18, they will earn, on average, **78%** more over their lifetime compared to not having their vision corrected.

Addressing the poor vision of a child who is just starting school in Brazil, can unlock an extra

296,500 reals
in individual lifetime earnings



 **YOUR EYES**

Image by Hugo Pacheco courtesy of IAPB

What can be done?

The good news is that a lot of poor vision can be easily fixed with simple solutions like eye exams and quality glasses. Investing in school eye health programs is a cost-effective way to improve children's learning and their future earning potential.

For full details see:

Parami Dhakhwa, Bryce Everett, Brad Wong. Better education in sight. An estimate of global learning and economic productivity losses from uncorrected refractive error in schools. (2024) DOI:<https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/ZTGPQ>