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Student Achievement • Safe Schools • Positive School Climate • Humility • Civility • Service

BOARD OF EDUCATION: John Cervantes • Andrew Cruz • Jonathan E. Monroe • James Na • Sonja Shaw • SUPERINTENDENT: Norm Enfield, Ed.D.

Dear Parent or Guardian:

To ensure your child is ready for school, California law, *Education Code* Section 49452.8, requires that your child have an **oral health assessment** (dental check-up) by May 1 in either kindergarten or first grade, whichever is his or her first year in public school. Assessments that have happened within the 12 months before your child enters school also meet this requirement. The law specifies that the assessment must be done by a licensed dentist or other licensed or registered dental health professional.

If your child has not had an oral health assessment in the past 12 months, they will need one before May 1. Take the attached form to your child's dentist to complete for a current assessment or if your child had an oral health assessment or dental check-up in the past 12 months.

The following information will help you find a dentist:

1. You can call the Medi-Cal Telephone Service Center at 1-800-322-6384 or visit Smile California - Find a Dentist (<https://smilecalifornia.org/find-a-dentist/>) to find a dentist that accepts Medi-Cal. For help enrolling your child in Medi-Cal, you can apply by mail, go in person to your local Social Services office, or online at Apply for Medi-Cal. (<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/pages/applyformedi-cal.aspx>)
2. For additional resources that may be helpful, contact your local public health department, click Apply for Health Coverage (<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/CountyOffices.aspx>) to find yours.

When you take your child to the dentist, bring the attached form to be completed. If you cannot take your child for an oral health assessment, please fill out the separate Waiver of Oral Health Assessment Requirement form, and return the form.

Please return the form to the health office at your child's school site. Your child's identity will not be in any report. Schools keep students' health information private. You can get more copies of the form at your child's school or on-line from the California Department of Education. (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/oralhealth.asp>)

Baby teeth are very important. Children need healthy baby teeth to eat, talk, smile, and feel good about themselves. Children with cavities may have pain, difficulty eating, stop smiling, and have problems paying attention and learning at school.

Here is important advice to help your child stay healthy:

- Take your child to the dentist. Dental check-ups can help keep your child's mouth healthy and pain free.
- Choose healthy foods for the entire family, like fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Brush teeth at least twice a day with toothpaste that contains fluoride.
- Limit candy and sweet drinks like punch, juice or soda. Give your child healthy choices like water, milk, and fruit instead.

If you have questions about the oral health assessment requirement, please contact the Health Services Department office by calling 909-628-1202 EXT. 8918.

Sincerely,

Dr. Katrina Gomez
Director, Health Services & Child Development