

## Oral Health Notification / Parent Letter

**(USE DISTRICT LETTERHEAD AND COMPLETE APPROPRIATE SECTIONS)**

Dear Parent or Guardian:

To make sure your child is ready for school, California law, *Education Code Section 49452.8*, now requires that your child have an oral health assessment (dental check-up) by May 31 in either kindergarten or first grade, whichever is his or her first year in public school.

A licensed dentist or other licensed or registered dental health professional needs to perform the assessment. If your child has had an assessment within 12 months of entering school, that assessment will meet this requirement. **Schools must receive a signed copy of the required form by May 31.**

If you have a dental provider:

- Take the attached Oral Health Assessment/Waiver Request form to the dental office to be completed at the time of your child's check-up.

If you do not have a dental provider, the following resources can help you find a dentist:

- Medi-Cal Dental  
800-322-6384  
<https://smilecalifornia.org/> or <http://www.denti-cal.ca.gov>
- Child Health & Disability Prevention Program(CHDP)  
209-468-8335  
<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/chdp/Pages/default.aspx>
- San Joaquin Dental Society  
209-951-1311  
<https://sjds.org/>
- San Joaquin County Public Health Services  
209-468-8620  
[http://www.sjcpsh.org/healthed/health\\_education\\_community\\_resources.aspx#oral](http://www.sjcpsh.org/healthed/health_education_community_resources.aspx#oral)

If you cannot take your child for this required assessment, please indicate the reason for this in Section 3 of the form.

California law requires schools to maintain the privacy of students' health information. Your child's identity will not be associated with any report produced as a result of this requirement.

Remember, children must be healthy to learn, and children with cavities are not healthy. Children need their teeth to eat properly, talk, smile, and feel good about themselves. Children with cavities and/or pain may have difficulty eating, stop smiling, and have problems paying attention and learning at school.

Tooth decay is an infection that does not heal and can be painful if left without treatment. If cavities are not treated, children can become sick enough to require emergency room treatment and their adult teeth may be permanently damaged.

Here are some important tips to help your child stay healthy:

1. Brush teeth twice a day for two minutes with fluoride toothpaste;
2. Floss once daily;
3. Eat healthy snacks, like cheese, apples, cucumbers, or carrots;
4. Visit the dentist twice a year for regular check-ups; and,
5. Ask your dentist and doctor about fluoride varnish.

If you have questions about the new oral health assessment requirement, please contact your child's school.

Sincerely,

District Superintendent

Attachment