

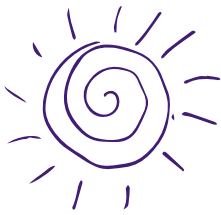
Smart Mouths

Smart Kids

Improving Dental Health for Colorado Students

HEALTHY STUDENTS ARE BETTER LEARNERS

*About School-linked
Dental Programs*



Colorado educators can improve students' oral health and academic performance by bringing dental professionals into the school to care for students during the school day.

Dental decay is the number one chronic disease of childhood. Too many Colorado kids have cavities, even though they are nearly 100% preventable. Research shows that healthy students are better learners. It's not surprising that children who experience dental problems and oral pain may also experience:

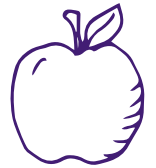
- Increased school absences
- Decreased academic performance
- Difficulty socializing
- Lack of sleep
- Damage to self-esteem
- Trouble eating and speaking

**15% of
Colorado
children
in third
grade have
untreated
decay**



What are school-linked dental programs?

Health care providers from school-linked dental programs in Colorado will visit your school and provide preventive dental care to children with limited or no access to these services. They can help students reduce tooth decay, identify dental problems and get a referral to treatment before their health worsens and they miss more school.



Why should schools support school-linked dental programs?

Many children have limited access to dental care because their families lack insurance or transportation. Children who say they recently had tooth pain were four times more likely to have low grades than children without oral pain. It has been shown that oral health programs linked with educational programs can increase a student's academic performance.



How do these programs influence classroom-learning time?

School-linked dental program services can be scheduled at a time that works for your school and classroom schedule. By investing a minimal amount of time outside the classroom for dental care, you can make sure your students perform better and learn more in the classroom.

What types of services do the school-linked dental programs provide?

The types of preventive services provided can vary. Four common services are:

1. **Dental assessment**—A dental professional looks inside a child’s mouth for any dental problems and provides referrals for treatment.
2. **Fluoride varnish**—Fluoride varnish applied to teeth helps to reduce the risk of cavities and make teeth stronger.
3. **Dental sealants**—A dental sealant is a plastic coating put on the chewing surface of molars - where cavities are most likely to occur - to protect them from decay.
4. **Dental education**—A dental professional teaches children the basics of oral hygiene, cavity prevention and good nutrition.

Eligibility

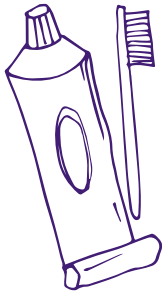
Children in all grades may receive dental screenings and fluoride varnish. Most school-linked dental programs provide dental sealants for children in second grade, although some programs provide dental sealants for other grade levels.

Cost

School-linked dental programs provide services at no charge for children with no dental coverage. Hygienists providing service will request reimbursement from insurance providers for children with dental coverage. Most do not ask for a copayment from parents.

Consent

School-linked dental programs require parental consent during enrollment.



25% of second grade Colorado children have decay on their first molars

