

Colton Joint Unified School District

Health Services 909-580-5002



Joining Together to Go the Extra Mile

Dear Parent or Guardian:

To make sure your child is ready for school, *Education Code* now requires that your child have a dental check-up by May 12, 2023 in either kindergarten, transitional 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.

Take the attached form to the dentist. 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.

The following resources will help you find a dentist and complete this requirement for your child: 1. Medi-Cal/Denti-Cal's toll-free number is 1-800-322-6384; <http://www.denti-cal.ca.gov>. For help enrolling your child in Medi-Cal/Denti-Cal, contact your local social service agency at 909-388-0245 or <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/mcs/medi-Calhome/CountyListing1.htm>.) 2. Healthy Families' toll-free number is 1-800-880-5305. 3. For additional resources that may be helpful, contact the local public health department at 387-6280.

Remember, your child is not healthy and ready for school if he or she has poor dental health! Here is important advice to help your child stay healthy:

- Take your child to the dentist twice a year.
- Choose healthy foods for the entire family. Fresh foods are usually the healthiest foods.
- Brush teeth at least twice a day with toothpaste that contains fluoride.
- Limit candy and sweet drinks, such as punch or soda. Sweet drinks and candy also contribute to weight problems, which may lead to other diseases, such as diabetes.

Baby teeth are very important. They are not just teeth that will fall out. Children need their teeth to eat properly, talk, smile, and feel good about themselves. Children with cavities 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.

If you have questions about the new oral health assessment requirement, please contact your school nurse or Bernice Venegas, District Health Assistant at 909-580-5002 ext. 6191.