



Oral Health Notification Letter

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. **Assessments that have happened within the 12 months before your child enters Kindergarten or first grade 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 Oral Health Assessment/Waiver Request form to the dental office, as it will be needed for your child's check-up. If you cannot take your child for this required assessment, please indicate the reason for this in Section 3 of the form. You can get more copies of the necessary form at your child's school. 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 or Web site can help you to find a dentist who takes Denti-Cal: <http://www.denti-cal.ca.gov> or 1-800-322-6384. For help enrolling your child in Medi-Cal/Denti-Cal, contact County of Ventura Human Services Agency: <https://www.ventura.org/human-services-agency/medi-cal> or 805-374-9006.
2. Healthy Families' toll-free number or Web site can help you to find a dentist who takes Healthy Families insurance or to find out if your child can enroll in the program: <http://www.benefitscal.com/> or 1-800-880-5305.
3. Additional local resources that may be helpful are the Conejo Free Dental Clinic, 805-328-3100 and the Conejo Free Clinic, 805-497-3575: <http://conejofreeclinic.org/>

Baby teeth are very important. They are not just teeth that will fall out. 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 and their adult teeth may be permanently damaged. Remember, your child is not healthy and ready for school if he or she has poor dental health!

If you have questions about the new oral health assessment requirement, please contact Shauna Ashmore, Director, Student Support Services at 805-497-9511, ext. 3321.

Sincerely,

Shauna Ashmore
Director, Student Support Services