

SCHOOL SMILE AND GROWTH SCREENING

FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

The School Smile and Growth Screening identifies students' health needs to support their overall development and learning.

WHY SCREENING IS IMPORTANT

Screening programs help identify children who have dental and growth issues and connect them with the resources they need.

- Children with cavities often experience pain, which can be associated with chronic school absenteeism.
- Height and weight are important measures of overall health and indicate school readiness.
- While the early identification screening is **NOT** a substitute for regular dental and doctor visits, these screening can identify children with urgent or early dental or growth needs.

Many children have **missed dental and well-child visits during COVID-19 pandemic**, making this year's health screening more important than ever.

Not every student has dental access; school screenings can help identify students and notify families that an urgent dental need exists.

For students without regular access to dental or medical care, this screening could provide a warm hand-off to community resources.

Are your students school ready?



HALF OF MINNESOTA'S THIRD GRADERS currently have or have had tooth decay.



51 MILLION SCHOOL HOURS are lost each year for students DUE TO DENTAL-RELATED DISEASES.



Sealants prevent 80% of cavities yet **ONLY HALF OF THIRD GRADERS** in Minnesota have dental sealants.



QUICK AND SAFE ASSESSMENT FOR ALL

The Smile and Growth Screening is a quick and safe assessment for all children including those with diverse primary languages or health needs.

- All 3rd graders are welcome to participate in the free screening with parental consent.
- The dental screening is a no-touch peek-in-the-mouth assessment administered by licensed dental professionals.
- No treatment or X-rays will be provided.
- All screenings will be confidential and will not be shared with the student.
- The school nurse will notify any families of the students with urgent care needs.
- On average, it takes a total of 10 minutes to screen each student.

WE BRING THE SCREENING TO THE SCHOOL

All you need to do is:

- Provide consent for participation.
- Children Dental Services (CDS) will reach out for scheduling and screening.
- Provide a location for the screening such as a section of the gymnasium, an unused classroom, or a quiet hallway.
- CDS performs a no-touch screening of oral health and growth measurements.
- Schools are provided a custom summary report on overall health and wellness.

Schools are important partners in assessing the smile and growth of students; please participate in the screening and help MDH identify health needs to allocate better resources for children in your school.



BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

- Schools benefit from understanding the needs of their students through a custom school report, the first step to keeping students in the classroom.
- Families of any students with urgent dental care needs benefit from early detection and referral, including information about low-cost dental clinics in the community.
- Students receive oral hygiene materials.
- Nurses receive training and educational materials.
- Participating schools are entered to win a free Hydration Station.



TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SCREENING, CONTACT:

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mn DEPARTMENT
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