



John Hellerstedt, M.D.

Commissioner

Dear School Nurse or Administrator,

67% of Texas third graders have experienced tooth decay, or cavities. Dental infections often lead to pain, trouble focusing, and missed school days. The Texas Department of State Health Services Smiles in Schools program wants to visit your school. Smiles in Schools can provide the following:

- Limited oral evaluations (screenings)
- Fluoride varnish application
- Oral health education
- Dental sealant placement

These preventive services are provided at no cost to schools or students.

Our teams can set up their dental chairs anywhere in your school. Our clinics are often the first dental experience a child has. We want this experience to be quick and positive.

This folder contains resources to answer your questions and make the process simple. The folder includes:

- Brochure explaining Smiles in Schools dental clinics
- Faxable form to begin the next step
- Information on the relationship between oral health and learning
- Samples of forms for parents
- Oral hygiene poster for your school
- Flyer to display or send home to inform parents of the upcoming clinic

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. We want to work with you to improve the dental health of Texas children. Please contact your regional dental team for more information. Their contact information is in this folder.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Stokley, DDS

State Public Health Dental Director

Texas Department of State Health Services

Health Screening and Oral Health Unit