

Certified School Dental Hygienists

Certified school dental hygienists support students' overall health and wellness by providing oral health education and dental evaluations, care, and referrals, keeping our students healthy and ready to learn.

Certified School Dental Hygienists Provide:



Dental screenings



Oral Health Education



Connection to Community Resources



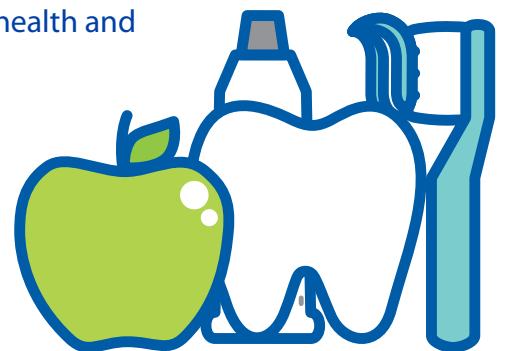
Follow-up Care



“Dental pain – often due to untreated decay – accounts for almost two million missed days of school annually.”¹

Certified School Dental Hygienists:

- ✓ Understand the education system and are integrated into the school and dental communities
- ✓ Commit to long-term student health by providing education on oral health and proper nutrition
- ✓ Ensure that students receive dental care necessary for their success by connecting families with community resources, follow-up evaluations, and serving as a dental advocate for students
- ✓ Reduce chronic absenteeism caused by dental pain, especially for lower-income students
- ✓ Adhere to the high standards required for other professionals in schools including the Educator Code of Conduct and Act 48 continuing education requirements.



PA School Code 23.3 (a) Dental examinations shall be required upon original entry into school and in grades three and seven.²

Exams can be provided via a mandated dental program (school dentist) or by a certified school dental hygienist.

Why Employ a Certified School Dental Hygienist?

A Certified School Dental Hygienist understands their community and can create a dental hygiene services plan to serve the unique needs of the district's student population. In addition to the dental evaluations required by law, this plan may include:

- ✓ **Classroom and individual oral health and nutrition education**
- ✓ **Preventive services to include cleanings, sealants and fluoride treatment**
- ✓ **Operation of a fluoride supplement program**

Dental Services are reimbursable through the Pennsylvania Department of Health⁴.

Mandated Dental: \$0.80 x ADM

Dental Hygiene Services Program: \$2.00 x number of children served (including those receiving dental education)

Mandated dental programs are a Band-Aid approach to dental care, often accomplished hurriedly and without follow-up on referrals for treatment.

Our students, especially those in lower-income communities, need and deserve so much more.



Recommended Ratio:

1 certified school dental hygienist in each school entity

¹<https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/research/2016/09/the-relationship-between-school-attendance-and-health.html>

²<https://www.pacode.com/secure/data/028/chapter23/chap23toc.html#23.3>

³if the Certified School Dental Hygienist is also a Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioner

⁴<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/school/Pages/Dental-Health.aspx>