

# McCABE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Parent or Guardian:

New legislation dealing with oral health assessments for students became effective January 1, 2007. AB 1433, California law, *Education Code* Section 49452.8, now requires your child have an oral health assessment (dental check-up) by May 31<sup>st</sup> in either kindergarten or first grade, whichever is his/her first year in public school. The law specifies that the assessment be completed by a licensed dentist or other licensed/registered dental health professional. If your child has had a dental check-up within the past 12 months, please submit a copy of the assessment to the school office at your earliest convenience to be sure your child's records are up to date.

An Oral Health Assessment/Waiver Request form will be needed at your child's dental check-up. A copy of such form is included for your convenience. If you cannot take your child for this required assessment, please indicate the reason in Section 3 of the form included. Additional copies of this form are available at your child's school site or online from the California Department of Education's Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/>. California law requires schools to maintain the privacy of all 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 can help you find a dentist who accepts Denti-Cal: (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 (760)337-6800 or <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/mcs/medi-calhome/CountyListing1.htm>.
2. Healthy Families will assist you in finding a dentist who accepts Healthy Families insurance or help in enrolling your child in the program: (800)880-5305 or <http://www.healthyfamilies.ca.gov/hfhome.asp>.
3. For additional resources that may be helpful, contact the public health department at (760)482-4438 or <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/mcs/medi-Calhome/CountyListing1.htm>.

Remember, your child is not fully ready for school if he or she has poor dental health! Here are a few important tips 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 your child's 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 contain a lot of sugar, which causes cavities and replaces important nutrients in your child's diet. Sweet drinks and candy also contribute to weight problems, which may lead to other diseases, such as diabetes. The less candy and sweet drinks, the better!

The care of baby teeth is very important. Children need their teeth to eat properly, talk, smile, and feel good about themselves. Children with cavities may stop smiling, have difficulty eating, 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.

Many things influence a child's progress and success in school, including health. Children must be healthy to learn, and children with cavities are not healthy. Cavities are preventable, but they affect more children than any other chronic disease.

If you have questions about the new oral healthy assessment requirement, please contact Carol Tyler, county school nurse at the Imperial County Office of Education (312-6425) or Becky Gibbs at McCabe Elementary School (352-5443).

Thank you for your help and cooperation in assisting the McCabe Union Elementary School District in providing a safe and healthy environment for your child!

Sincerely,

**COPY OF NOTICE SENT HOME**

Amanda Brooke  
Superintendent