**Letter to parents re: School-Based/Linked OH Programs in Your County –** OPTION 1

***Objective:* Raise awareness of parent/caregiver about the Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment and school-based/linked oral health programs at school**

***Notes:* This template requires you to customize by entering the name of your County and school(s) that have school-based vs. school-linked oral health services. You can further customize if you know the dates when screenings will occur and can add those dates in and with phone numbers if parents have questions. Review and adjust all the highlighted sections to incorporate relevant county and audience information.**

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Dear Parent(s),

Did you know that tooth decay and childhood cavities are one of the most common, yet preventable issues affecting children? It’s also one of the leading reasons why children miss school. It can be incredibly difficult to concentrate on a school lesson or to play with friends with a toothache or if you’re having difficulty eating, talking, or smiling. Oral health is important to overall health, and [XX] County Department of Public Health is working to ensure that all school-aged children have strong oral health to stay in school ready to learn.

If you have a child entering or already in Kindergarten, we encourage you to visit your child’s dentist and have them fill out the Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment (KOHA) to ensure your child starts school with a healthy mouth. You can get KOHA forms [here](https://www.ab1433.org/home/reporting) or by asking your child’s school.

Please note that your child’s school might provide school-based or school-linked [pick one] oral health services that will provide your child with a **free** dental health screening to make sure everything looks okay. Please contact your school for more information about when services will be provided.

Add paragraph below if applicable:

Our school partners with [name of organization/dental provider] to apply dental sealants, a proven way to help protect the teeth of children starting at age 6, from cavities. If sealants are recommended for your child, [pick one as applicable: they could be applied with your consent at our school-based program OR you will receive information on where you could bring your child to receive sealants]. If your child already has a regular dental provider, we encourage you to ask them about whether your child needs sealants. More information about sealants is listed below,

If your child does not have a regular dental provider or if you have any questions about these services or resources, please contact [LOHP representative?, school nurse if applicable, who?] at [phone number] or [email address]. The [XX] County Department of Public Health is available to help ensure your child has a healthier mouth and stays in school.

Sincerely,

[Determine who is the best messenger for this letter. Is it the school principal, school nurse (if applicable)? Or from the local health department and/or office of education?]

Oral Health Resources:

* Local Oral Health Program, [if helpful, list contact here]
* For families enrolled in Medi-Cal looking for information about dental benefits: Smile, CA, <https://smilecalifornia.org/>
* If your child is enrolled in Medi-Cal and you need help finding a dentist: Medi-Cal Telephone Service Center, 800-322-6384 (toll-free)
* To get Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment forms: <https://www.ab1433.org/home/reporting>

**Letter to parents re: School-Based/Linked OH Programs in Your County –** OPTION 2

***Objective:* Raise parent/caregiver awareness about sealants, highlighting that the school-based/school-linked program at their school can provide services**

***Notes:* This template requires you to customize the letter by entering the name of your County and which school(s) has school-based vs. school-linked oral health services to dental sealants. You can further customize with phone numbers and additional resources if parents/caregivers have questions.**

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Dear Parent(s),

Oral health is important to overall health, and the [XX] County Department of Public Health is working to ensure that all school-aged children have healthy mouths and stay in school ready to learn.

Beginning at age 6, a proven way to keep your child’s teeth strong and protected from cavities is to receive dental sealants on their molars. Sealants will keep your child’s teeth protected from food and decay. If your child has a regular dental provider, we encourage you to ask them about sealants. More information about sealants is below.

Please note that your child’s school might have school-based or school-linked [pick one] oral health services available that will provide your child with a **free** dental health screening to make sure everything looks okay. Please contact your school to find out if and when services will be offered.

Add paragraph below if applicable:

Your school partners with [name of organization/dental provider] to apply dental sealants, a proven way to help protect the teeth of children starting at age 6, from cavities. If sealants are recommended for your child, [pick one as applicable: they could be applied with your consent at the school-based program OR you will receive information on where you could bring your child to receive sealants]. If your child already has a regular dental provider, we encourage you to ask them about whether your child needs sealants. More information about sealants is listed below,

If your child does not yet have a regular dental provider or if you have any questions about these services or resources, please contact [applicable contact here] at [phone number] or [email address]. The [XX] County Department of Public Health is available to help ensure your child has a healthier mouth and stays in school ready to learn.

Sincerely,

[Determine who is the best messenger for this letter. Is it the school principal, school nurse (if applicable)? Or from the local health department and/or office of education?]

Resources:

* Seal Today to Prevent Decay, <https://smilecalifornia.org/msm/>
* What is a dental sealant? <https://smilecalifornia.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Molar-Sealant-Infographic-Eng.pdf>
* If your child is enrolled in Medi-Cal and you need help finding a dentist: Medi-Cal Telephone Service Center, 800-322-6384 (toll-free)
* For families enrolled in Medi-Cal looking for information about dental benefits: Smile, CA, <https://smilecalifornia.org/>