

October 13, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Beginning the 2008/2009 school year, Iowa law required all kindergarten, 9th grade students, and any out-of-state transfer students to provide proof of a dental screening. The purpose of this law is to improve the oral health of Iowa's children. For kindergarten students, the dental check can have occurred any time between the 3rd and 6th birthdays (ages 3-5). For 9th grade and out-of-state transfer students, a dental check within the past year is acceptable.

Proof of the dental screening must be provided on the new Certificate of Dental Screening provided by the Iowa Department of Public Health (attached). A dentist, dental hygienist, physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner may provide the screening for Kindergarten students. For 9th grade students or out-of-state transfer students, the screening must be done by a dentist or dental hygienist. Your provider should complete the Certificate of Dental Screening for you to return to the school nurse. If your child has recently been to the dentist, please call your dentist to have them fill out a form and send/fax it to the school. Our fax number is (712) 933-2243. You could also take this form back to the dentist to sign.

Children without proof of a dental screening will not be prevented from attending school. If your family has difficulty meeting the requirement, the Iowa Department of Public Health and the local public health agencies will provide assistance to ensure that the necessary dental screening is obtained. Free or reduced cost screenings may be available through community health programs or health screening events. Please check with me for further details.

Exemptions are allowed on an individual basis for religious and financial hardship reasons. For a religious exemption, the Certificate of Dental Screening Exemption must be signed by a parent or guardian and notarized. For a financial hardship exemption, the Certificate of Dental Screening Exemption must be signed by a dentist, dental hygienist, physician, physician assistant, registered nurse, or advanced registered nurse practitioner. (Note: The listed health care providers may sign for either elementary or high school grade levels.) Please contact me to get an exemption form.

Please have the appropriate form to me by December 1.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 933-2242 or 834-2227.

Thank you.

Randi Swanson, RN
School Nurse