

## Oral Health Assessment (AB1433) FAQs

### What exactly do students need to have at school entry to meet the oral health assessment requirement?

- An oral health assessment. This may be either
  - A complete oral examination and treatment plan (performed by a dentist); or,
  - A basic oral health evaluation or dental screening (by a dentist, registered dental hygienist (RDH), or a registered dental assistant (RDA) with supervision).
- Oral Health Assessment forms are available at [www.sharethecaredental.org](http://www.sharethecaredental.org).

### What is the purpose of this requirement?

- Goals are to establish a regular source of dental care for every child, to identify those who need further examination and treatment, and to identify barriers to receiving care.

### What is meant by “school entry”?

- School entry means all kindergarten students in the public school system.
- For children who do not enter the public school until first grade, then school entry is first grade.
- If a child does not enter a California public school district until after first grade, the State does not require school districts to elicit this assessment. However, it is possible some districts will choose to elicit this information from parents/guardians.

### Can a child’s doctor or a school nurse fulfill this requirement?

- **No**, the assessment **must** be performed by a licensed dentist or other licensed/registered dental health professional (e.g., an RDH without supervision or RDA with supervision).

### Can a dentist outside of USA perform the health assessment? Outside of California?

- **No**, the examining dental health professional must be licensed in California.

### How are parents/guardians going to know about this requirement?

- Parents/guardians should be sent a notification letter from their child’s school.

### How close to the first day of school must the oral health assessment be provided?

- As early as 12 months before school starts; And as late as May 31<sup>st</sup> of the first year of school.

### What are districts going to do with these assessment reports?

- Districts must aggregate the data and send an annual report to their county office of education.

### What if a parent/guardian refuses or cannot afford to pay for a dental assessment?

- Schools must provide parents/guardians with benefit enrollment information (e.g., MediCal; Healthy Families).
- Parents/guardians may sign a waiver of this requirement if they cannot find a dental office that takes their child’s insurance; cannot afford to pay; or parent/guardian chooses not to have their child assessed.
- Many schools are working with local societies of oral health professionals to ensure at least a minimal evaluation for each student.

### How may San Diego health professionals and agencies assist parents/guardians with this requirement?

- If you know of children who require an oral health assessment, refer families, if they are eligible, to San Diego County *Dental Health Initiative/Share the Care* at 619-692-8858. [www.sharethecaredental.org](http://www.sharethecaredental.org).
- For help linking children with low-incomes to insurance coverage, call the San Diego Kids Health Assurance Network (SD-KHAN) at 1-800-675-2229.

### Are children who received a CHDP medical exam eligible for a free dental exam?

- Yes!

This information was compiled by *Share the Care – Dental Health Initiative* with information from [www.cde.ca.gov](http://www.cde.ca.gov) and [www.sdcoe.net](http://www.sdcoe.net).