



PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
EDUCATION CENTER • HEALTH PROGRAMS

Dear Parent or Guardian:

To make sure your child is ready for school, California law, *Education Code* Section 49452.8, requires that your child have an oral health assessment (dental check-up) by May 31 in either kindergarten or first grade, whichever is his or her first year in public school. Assessments that have happened within the 12 months before your child enters school also meet this requirement. The law specifies that the assessment must be done by a licensed dentist or other licensed dental health professional.

Take the attached Oral Health Assessment or to the dental office, as it will be needed for your child's check-up. If you cannot take your child for this required assessment, please complete the Waiver of Oral Health Assessment Required and indicate the reason on the form. You can get more copies of the necessary form at your child's school or online from the California Department of Education at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/oralhealth.asp>. California law requires schools to maintain the privacy of students' health information. Your child's identity will not be associated with any report produced because 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 to find a dentist who takes Denti-Cal: 1-800-322-6384; <http://www.denti-cal.ca.gov>. For help enrolling your child in Medi-Cal/Denti-Cal, please contact the Young & Healthy at 626-795-5166 or the Pasadena Public Health Department at 626-744-6086.
2. For additional resources that may be helpful, please contact:
The Pasadena Public Health Department
1845 N. Fair Oaks Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91103
Phone: 626-744-6000
Website: <https://www.cityofpasadena.net/public-health/>

Remember, your child is not healthy and ready for school if he or she has poor dental health! Here is important advice 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.



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- Brush 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!

Baby teeth are very important. They are not just teeth that will fall out. Children need their teeth to eat properly, talk, smile, and feel good about themselves. Children with cavities may have difficulty eating, stop smiling, 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 health assessment requirement, please contact the PUSD Health Programs Department at 626-396-3600 Ext. 88240.

Sincerely,

Ana Maria Apodaca
Director, Health Programs

APPROVED:

Helen Hill, Ed.D
Acting Chief Academic Officer

Attachments:
Oral Health Assessment Form
Waiver of Oral Health Assessment Requirement Form

Oral Health Assessment Form

California law (*Education Code* Section 49452.8) says every child must have a dental check-up (assessment) by May 31st of his/her first year in public school. A California licensed dental professional must do the check-up and fill out Section 2 of this form. If your child had a dental check-up in the last 12 months, ask your dentist to fill out Section 2. If you are unable to get a dental check-up for your child, fill out the separate Waiver of Oral Health Assessment Requirement Form.

This assessment will let you know if there are any dental problems that need attention by a dentist. This assessment will also be used to evaluate our oral health programs. Children need good oral health to speak with confidence, express themselves, be healthy and, ready to learn. Poor oral health has been related to lower school performance, poor social relationships, and less success later in life. For this reason, we thank you for making this contribution to the health and well-being of California’s children.

Section 1: Child’s Information (Filled out by parent or guardian)

Child’s First Name:	Last Name:	Middle Initial:	Child’s Birth Date: MM – DD – YYYY
Address:			Apt.:
City:		ZIP Code: 	
School Name:	Teacher:	Grade:	Year child starts kindergarten: Y Y Y Y
Parent/Guardian First Name:	Parent/Guardian Last Name:		Child’s Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
Child’s Race/Ethnicity:	<input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Native American <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-racial <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)		

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Section 2: Oral Health Data Collection (Filled out by a California licensed dental professional)

IMPORTANT NOTE: Consider each box separately. Mark each box.

Assessment Date: MM – DD – YYYY	Untreated Decay (Visible Decay Present) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	*Caries Experience (Visible decay and/or fillings present) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Treatment Urgency: <input type="checkbox"/> No obvious problem found <input type="checkbox"/> Early dental care recommended (caries without pain or infection; or child would benefit from sealants or further evaluation) <input type="checkbox"/> Urgent care needed (pain, infection, swelling or soft tissue lesions)		
_____ Licensed Dental Professional Signature		_____ CA License Number
		_____ Date

*Check “Yes” for Caries experience if there is presence of untreated decay or fillings
 Check “No” for Caries experience if there is no untreated decay and no fillings

Section 3: Follow-up to Urgent Care (Filled out by entity responsible for follow up)

Parent notified that child has urgent dental care need on:	MM – DD – YYYY
A follow-up appointment for this child has been scheduled for:	MM – DD – YYYY
Did child receive needed treatment?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
<input type="checkbox"/> No (If no, entity responsible for follow-up will be encouraged to check back in with parent)	
<input type="checkbox"/> I don't know	

The law states schools must keep student health information private. Your child's name will not be part of any report as a result of this law. This information may only be used for purposes related to your child's health. If you have questions, please call your school.

Return this form to the school *no later than* May 31st of your child's first school year.

Original to be kept in child's school record.

Waiver of Oral Health Assessment Requirement

Please fill out this form if you need to excuse your child the oral health assessment requirement.
 Sign and return this form to the school where it will be kept confidential.

Section 1: Child's Information (Filled out by parent or guardian)

Child's First Name:	Last Name:	Middle Initial:	Child's Birth Date: MM – DD – YYYY
Address:			Apt.:
City:		ZIP code: 	
School Name:	Teacher:	Grade:	Year child starts kindergarten: Y Y Y Y
Parent/Guardian First Name:	Parent/Guardian Last Name:	Child's Gender: Male Female	
Child's Race/Ethnicity:	<input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Native American <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-racial <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)		

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Section 2: To be filled out by parent or guardian ONLY IF asking to be excused from this requirement

Please excuse my child from the assessment because (check the box that best describes the reason):	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I cannot find a dental office that will take my child's dental insurance plan. My child's dental insurance plan is: <input type="checkbox"/> Medi-Cal <input type="checkbox"/> Covered California <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy Kids <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	I cannot afford an assessment for my child.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I cannot find the time to get to a dentist (e.g., cannot get the time off from work, the dentist does not have convenient office hours).
<input type="checkbox"/>	I cannot get to a dentist easily (e.g., do not have transportation, located too far away).
<input type="checkbox"/>	I do not believe my child would benefit from an assessment.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify the reason not listed above for why you are seeking a waiver of this assessment for your child): _____ _____
If asking to be excused from this requirement:	
<input type="checkbox"/> _____ Signature of parent or guardian	MM – DD – YYYY _____ Date

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Return this form to the school *no later than* May 31 of your child's first school year.

Original to be kept in child's school record.