

MASON CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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School Dental Screenings for Students

All children newly enrolling in an Iowa elementary or high school are required to have a dental screening. This requirement was passed by the 2007 legislature and became effective July 1, 2008. The purpose of the dental screening requirement is to improve the oral health of Iowa's children. Dental screenings help with early detection and treatment of dental disease; promote the importance of oral health for school readiness and learning; and contribute to statewide surveillance of oral health.

Dental screenings are provided by an integrated network of health care professionals to supplement Iowa's dental workforce. Regional I-Smile™ coordinators, serving at the "hub" of this network, partner with schools to assist students who need a screening or require follow-up dental care.

The following are highlights of the school dental screening requirement:

- *The requirement applies to kindergarten and ninth grade students only.*
- A screening for kindergarten may be performed by a licensed dentist, dental hygienist, nurse, advanced registered nurse practitioner, or physician assistant.
- A screening for ninth grade may be performed by a licensed dentist or dental hygienist only.
- Screenings performed by out-of-state providers are allowed.
- The Iowa Department of Public Health Certificate of Dental Screening is the only acceptable form.
- A screening for kindergarten is valid from age 3 years to four months after enrollment date.
- A screening for 9th grade is valid from one year prior to enrollment to four months after enrollment date.

If your student attended in 2013-2014 Mason City School's Public 4-Year-Old Preschool and COMPLETED and RETURNED to the school the CERTIFICATE OF DENTAL SCREENING, you do not need to complete for your child's kindergarten year.

Please complete the CERTIFICATE OF DENTAL SCREENING form and return to your student's school by OCTOBER 1, 2014. If you have already had your student to the dentist for a check-up, you do not need to take them again; just ask your dentist office to complete the form.

*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.*