

Building a bright
future for all learners



Galt Joint Union Elementary School District

1018 C Street, Suite 210 ~ Galt, CA 95632

209-744-4545 ~ 209-744-4553 FAX

Dear Parent or Guardian:

California Law, Education Code Section 49452.8, now 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 or registered dental health professional.

Fortunately in our District we have local dentists that perform oral health assessments for our Kindergartners. If you will sign and return Section 1 of the attached form we will complete the required assessment. If you would like your own dentist to complete this assessment take the entire form to your dentist and have it completed and return it to school.

If you choose not to have this done please complete Section 3 and return to school.

If you are interested in more information go to the California Department of Education's Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn>. California law requires schools to maintain the privacy of students' health information. Your child's identity will not be associated with any report produced as a result of the requirement.

The following resources will help you find a dentist and complete this requirement for your child ***if you choose not to have it done at school.***

1. Medi-Cal/Denti-Cal's toll free number or Web site 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, contact your local social service agency at 209-745-3484 * 257 S. Lincoln Way, Galt.
2. Healthy Families' toll-free number or Web site can help you find a dentist who takes Healthy Families Insurance or to find out if your child can enroll in the program: 1-800-880-5305 or <http://www.healthyfamilies.ca.gov/hfhome.asp>.
3. For additional resources that may be helpful, contact the local public health department at 209-745-3484 or 916-874-2072.

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.
- ◆ 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 District Health Services Department at 209-744-4521 or nurse@galt.k12.ca.us or visit the District website at www.galt.k12.ca.us.

Sincerely,
Galt Elementary Health Services Department