



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Prevention and Community Health
Post Office Box 47830
Olympia, Washington 98504-7830

August 28, 2023

RE: 2023 Washington State Smile Survey

Dear Principal:

During the 2023-24 school year, the Washington State Department of Health will conduct the 2023 Smile Survey, in partnership with Arcora Foundation, and in cooperation with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). Your school has been randomly selected to participate. Please see the attached letter of support from State Superintendent Chris Reykdal. We want your school to be represented in our survey, regardless of access-to-care needs.

This is not the same as a dental screening program; we don't record findings in the same way, and we don't provide any services. Findings from the Smile Survey will be used to improve children's oral health programs and policies. Children need good oral health to be healthy and ready to learn. To identify and track the oral health needs of Washington's children, we do this population assessment about every five years in randomly selected schools throughout the state.

Children in second and third grades (75, or up to 3 classes, per grade, one day max) will be given the opportunity to have a (no cost) dental visual check. This visual check will take two to three minutes per child or less. There will be no x-rays taken and no dental treatment will be provided. We know that minimal class disruption is critical in the operation of your school, and we work quickly. Each child viewed will be given a letter to take home with findings from the check. Every child will receive a toothbrush and sticker regardless of participation. There will be no cost for your school to participate.

We want to know about kids who have unmet dental needs, and we want to know about children who have good access to care, too. We ask you, as OSPI has, for your support and the support of your teachers to carry out this important public health assessment of our state's policies and systems for children's oral health.

I am the statewide coordinator, and my contact info is below. A regional coordinator or I will be contacting you to answer your questions and to receive your approval for conducting this assessment. Once schools are selected for the survey, one of the outreach coordinators will be in contact with the principals and staff of each school.

The OSPI coordinator is Annie Hetzel, MSN, RN, NCSN, School Health Services Consultant. Annie can be reached at (360)725-6040 and annie.hetzel@k12.wa.us.

Thank you in advance for making this contribution to the health and well-being of our children in Washington.

Respectfully yours,

Shelley Guinn, MPH, RDH, CDPH
Washington State Department of Health
Oral Health Program
Shelley.Guinn@doh.wa.gov
360-236-3524 (office)