

How do you know if your children are ready for school? **Check their smiles.**

All Iowa children enrolling for the first time in **Kindergarten** or **9th grade** must have a dental screening. *It's required!*

Screening Rules



Kindergarten Students

- Screening must occur no earlier than age 3 and no later than 4 months after enrollment
- Screenings can be performed by: dentists, dental hygienists, physicians, registered nurses, or physician assistants

9th Grade Students

- Screening must occur no earlier than 1 year before enrollment and no later than 4 months after enrollment
- Screenings can only be performed by: dentists or dental hygienists

- Get an official Certificate of Dental Screening form from your school nurse or local I-Smile™ Coordinator.
- Make an appointment for your child to get a dental screening.
- Return the completed form to the school.

Need help getting a dental screening? Your local I-Smile™ Coordinator can assist you!

Call **1-866-528-4020** for contact information or visit:

www.idph.state.ia.us/webmap/default.asp?map=ismile

You can also find forms and additional information on the dental screening requirement at:

<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/ohds/OralHealth.aspx?prog=OHC&pg=Screenings>





School Dental Screening Requirement Frequently Asked Questions



- 1) When was the requirement effective?**
The requirement began during the 2008-2009 school year.
- 2) Who does the requirement include?**
All students newly enrolling in kindergarten and 9th grade in an Iowa public or accredited non-public elementary school or high school are required to have proof of a dental screening.
- 3) Does the requirement include home-schooled or foreign exchange students?**
No, those students are not considered as “enrolled” in an Iowa public or accredited non-public school.
- 4) What is the timeline for a screening to be done?**
For kindergarten, a screening completed no earlier than age 3, but no later than four months after enrollment is acceptable. For 9th grade, a screening completed no earlier than one year prior to enrollment and no later than four months after enrollment is acceptable.
- 5) Who can provide a screening?**
For kindergarten students, the requirement allows a licensed dentist, dental hygienist, physician, physician assistant, registered nurse, or advanced registered nurse practitioner to provide a screening. For 9th grade students, a screening must be provided by a licensed dentist or dental hygienist. Screenings performed by out-of-state providers are acceptable. The goal is that every child has an exam or screening by a dentist. However, due to barriers in accessing care this may not be possible for all families.
- 6) Is training available for physicians, physician assistants, or nurses to do the screenings?**
For quality assurance and consistency, IDPH makes training and training materials available for non-dental health care providers. Trainings may be provided locally by dental hygienists serving as I-Smile™ Coordinators.
- 7) What screening documentation is acceptable?**
An IDPH Certificate of Dental Screening is the only approved form and the current version is available at: <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/OHDS/OralHealth.aspx?prog=OHC&pg=Screenings>. To be valid, the certificate must be complete and signed. Providers are encouraged to assist with completing the student section if that information is known.

An authorized provider (i.e. dentist, dental hygienist, physician, physician assistant, or registered nurse) may transfer information onto the IDPH certificate from another health document that contains the required information. The IDPH certificate must be signed by the recorder and the other health document should be attached. Note: Although all versions of the Certificate of Dental Screening are acceptable, IDPH recommends that the current version be used if transferring information from another health document.
- 8) What if a student does not have a dentist or has difficulty obtaining a screening certificate?**
A child without proof of a dental screening will not be prevented from attending school. If families have difficulty meeting the requirement, the IDPH and local I-Smile™ Coordinators can provide assistance to help ensure that the dental screenings are obtained.
- 9) When do students need to turn in the Certificates of Dental Screening to the schools?**
The rules do not specify a certain amount of time. To assure ample time to comply with the audit requirement, IDPH recommends that the certificates be collected at school enrollment or as soon as possible.
- 10) How will the screenings be reported to IDPH?**
State statute requires an audit report be sent to IDPH from each local board of health by May 31st for the preceding school year. IDPH works with boards of health, I-Smile™ Coordinators, and schools to assure the audit is done.
- 11) Are exemptions allowed?**
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. Note: With exemption forms, the authorized health care providers may sign for either elementary or high school grade levels.



Iowa Department of Public Health CERTIFICATE OF DENTAL SCREENING

**This certificate is not valid unless all fields are complete.
RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO CHILD'S SCHOOL.**

Student Information (please print)

Student Last Name:	Student First Name:	Birth Date (M/D/YYYY):
Parent or Guardian Name:		Telephone (home or mobile):
Street Address:	City:	County:
Name of Elementary or High School:	Grade Level:	Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female

Screening Information (health care provider must complete this section)

Date of Dental Screening: _____

Treatment Needs (check ONE only based on screening results, prior to treatment services provided):

- No Obvious Problems** – the child's hard and soft tissues appear to be visually healthy and there is no apparent reason for the child to be seen before the next routine dental checkup.
- Requires Dental Care** – tooth decay¹ or a white spot lesion² is suspected in one or more teeth, or gum infection³ is suspected.
- Requires Urgent Dental Care** – obvious tooth decay¹ is present in one or more teeth, there is evidence of injury or severe infection, or the child is experiencing pain.

¹ Tooth decay: A visible cavity or hole in a tooth with brown or black coloration, or a retained root.
² White spot lesion: A demineralized area of a tooth, usually appearing as a chalky, white spot or white line near the gumline. A white spot lesion is considered an early indicator of tooth decay, especially in primary (baby) teeth.
³ Gum infection: Gum (gingival) tissue is red, bleeding, or swollen.

Screening Provider (check ONE only):

DDS/DMD RDH MD/DO PA RN/ARNP (High school screen must be provided by DDS/DMD or RDH)

Provider Name: (please print) _____ Phone: _____

Provider Business Address: _____

Signature and Credentials of Provider or Recorder*: _____ Date: _____

*Recorder: An authorized provider (DDS/DMD, RDH, MD/DO, PA, or RN/ARNP) may transfer information onto this form from another health document. The other health document should be attached to this form.

A screening does not replace an exam by a dentist.
Children should have a complete examination by a dentist at least once a year.

RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO CHILD'S SCHOOL.