

Old Capitol Building
PO Box 47200
Olympia, WA 98504-7200



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

k12.wa.us

July 12, 2022

Re: 2022-23 Smile Survey

Dear Superintendents:

During the 2022–24 school years, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH), in cooperation with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), will be conducting its sixth [Smile Survey](#). The Smile Survey is a statewide assessment of the oral health of Washington's elementary school students and is conducted every five to seven years.

Poor oral health has been related to decreased school performance, poor social relationships, and less success later in life. The findings of the 2023 Smile Survey will be utilized to assure that our preventive oral health programs are effective, to describe the oral health of Washington's children, and to determine the need for additional dental programs.

Elementary schools throughout the state have been randomly selected and will be notified for participation in the assessment. Children in 2nd- and 3rd-grades will be given the opportunity to have a free dental screening. The screening itself will take one minute or less with another 1-2 minutes for paperwork per child, a total of 2-3 minutes or less. No X-rays will be taken, and no dental treatment will be provided. We understand that nominal class disruption is essential in the operation of the schools. For this reason, we will aim for each school to participate for only one day. Each child will receive a toothbrush and a letter to the parent/guardian noting the results of the screening. The schools will incur no cost for participating.

We would like to ask for your support in approving school principals in your district to participate in this important assessment of our children's oral health needs. The DOH Statewide Coordinator is Shelley Guinn, RDH, MPH, State Oral Health Program Coordinator. Please contact Shelley if you have any concerns or questions. Shelley can be reached at 360-236-3524 or shelley.guinn@doh.wa.gov. Once schools are selected for the survey, Shelley or one of her team of Regional Coordinators will be in contact with the principals and staff of each school to answer questions and receive their approvals for conducting the Smile Survey. The OSPI contact for this project is Annie Hetzel MSN, RN, NCSN, School Health Services Consultant. Annie may be reached at 360-725-6040 or annie.hetzel@k12.wa.us.

July 12, 2022

Page 2

We thank you in advance for encouraging your school principals to participate in improving educational access and learning for our state's children by promoting their health and well-being.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris P.S. Reykdal". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a stylized "R".

Chris Reykdal
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

July 12, 2022

Page 2