

To: School Principal

CC: School Nurse & District Lead Nurse/Health Service Director etc. and Assistant Principal

Subject: Help improve students' oral health in WA by participating in Smile Survey

Dear Principal (last name),

Did you know students with poor oral health are nearly 3 times more likely to miss school? Even though tooth decay is preventable, 53% of 3rd graders have tooth decay. In addition, Hispanic and American Indian/Alaska Native children in 2nd and 3rd grades have a 50% higher rate of decay (compared to white children).

You can help reverse these trends and improve your students' oral health. The Washington State Smile Survey is looking to improve those outcomes by measuring the prevalence of decay and dental sealants in 2nd and 3rd graders. Implemented by DOH and Arcora Foundation during the fall of 2023, the Smile Survey takes place about every five years for these grades, at no cost to the school. It's a visual screening (the screener looks in students' mouths), and it takes only a few minutes per child. We will invite 3-4 classes (~150 students, max) from each grade to participate, and the screener will be at your school for only one day.

Are you interested in helping us collect this important data so we can improve oral health for Washington students?

I am free for a follow-up phone call [list dates/times], and please let me know if there is another contact person at your school I should connect with. I'm also including additional information about the Smile Survey below my signature. Thank you.

[Name/email signature]

For more information about participating in the Smile Survey, please visit SmileSurveyWA.org.