



## Protecting and Improving the Health of Iowans

Kim Reynolds, Governor

Adam Gregg, Lt. Governor

Kelly Garcia, Interim Director

DATE: 2020-2021 School Year

TO: Parents/Guardians of 9<sup>th</sup> grade students

FROM: Bureau of Oral and Health Delivery System, Iowa Department of Public Health

TOPIC: **Iowa's Certificate of Dental Screening Law**

Since 2008, the State of Iowa requires students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade to provide proof of a dental screening to their school. You are receiving this letter because, according to school records, there is not a Certificate of Dental Screening on file for your child.

Please schedule a dental exam or screening as soon as possible to have the required paperwork completed. Medicaid, Hawki and private dental insurance plans will pay for a dental exam. If you do not have a dentist or a way to pay for the exam, please contact your school nurse to assist you.

If your child has had a dental exam or screening in the past 12 months but has not yet turned in the Certificate of Dental Screening, please ask the person who provided the exam or screening to complete the Certificate as soon as possible. Once completed, submit the form to the school nurse. To help you with this, the Certificate of Dental Screening is on the next page.

*Please return the form to the school nurse by Jan. 8, 2021.*

The intent of the School Dental Screening law is to improve the oral health of Iowa children – finding cavities or other problems early, lowering treatment costs, and teaching children how to care for their teeth and gums through proper brushing and choosing healthy foods and drinks. Having good oral health makes children better learners in school.

Your attention to this matter is appreciated. Thank you!

For more information about the school dental screening law, you may contact the Iowa Department of Public Health at 1-877-528-4020 or [oral.health@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:oral.health@idph.iowa.gov).