



# **Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas**

## **SCHOOL-BASED DENTAL PROGRAM**

The Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas provides on-site, school-based dental services for children pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade at no expense to schools or out-of-pocket cost to a child's parent or guardian. These services are provided by licensed dentists and hygienists specially trained to work with children and using mobile and highly portable equipment designed for this purpose.

Services available range from quick screenings meeting the requirements of Kansas Statute 72-5201 requiring all children have a dental exam annually prior to entering school to comprehensive dental care including cleanings, x-rays, sealants and/or fluoride applications, fillings and extractions. These more intensive services are intended for children who did not have a dentist or cannot access one for any reason. Staff is also available for school in-services on the importance of dental health or for age-appropriate presentations to students.

Information sheets and consent forms for any of these services are provided (an original or copies whichever is preferred) to participating schools. Samples are attached. CHC/SEK staff is available to work with school staff in getting the forms distributed. A summary sheet of the findings from each school screening is also made available to the school, as are copies of individual recommendations sent home with each child. These not only demonstrate the school's compliance with state statute, but do identify which children would benefit from follow-up care and how to access it in those cases where a family's resources are limited.

The cost of the screening services is covered through federal, state and private funding for this purpose. For preventative or restorative services, CHC/SEK utilizes grant funding and does bill Medicaid, Health Wave or private companies that cover a child's dental care accepting whatever payment, if any, is received. This helps offset the cost of dental services for children without any dental coverage. No facility or parent/guardian will be billed for services and should this accidentally occur, please contact CHC/SEK Administration at 620-235-1867.

A sample agreement to participate is attached and, for additional information, please contact our Director of Dental Operations Gail Kennedy at 620-231-9873.