

South Carolina Program for Oral Health Screening Code of 2014 (not yet implemented due to lack of appropriations)

Summary:

(Currently: No mandatory dental screening; only recommended to have comprehensive exam by their dentist within 12 months prior to enrollment into Pre-k, Head Start, Kdg or 1st grade.)

Code passed in 2014: Title 44-Health, Chapter 8 Section 44-8-10 that Department of Health and Environmental Control shall implement a targeted community program for dental health education, screening, and treatment referral in the public schools for children in kindergarten, third, seventh, and tenth grades or upon entry into a South Carolina school.

** Code passed in 2014; however, no funding has been provided for implementation.*

Ages and Grades:

K, 3rd, 7th, 10th grades or upon entry into a school.

Assessment v Exam v Screening:

Screening to be made by “authorized provider” at no charge.

“Authorized practitioner” means dentists, hygienists, certified dental assistants, physicians, and nurses, and anyone who has qualified under the department's training module

How does “requirement” function:

No later than one hundred twenty calendar days following a child's start date in above grades or upon entry, the student shall present to the school an Acknowledgment of Dental Screening signed by an authorized practitioner.

A screening must be performed for unless a parent or guardian completes an exemption form provided to them by the school. The school shall accept a parental exemption form in place of the Acknowledgment of Dental Screening.

School based option?

The department shall target three to five counties of need. The program must seek collaboration from local school districts, other governmental entities, school nurses, and dentists to coordinate federal Medicaid assistance and any volunteer efforts to reduce costs to the State to the extent practicable.

Follow-up care/support:

Practitioner conducting screening shall issue an Acknowledgment of Dental Screening for the child. The school nurse or other school employee designated by the school district superintendent shall notify and advise the child's parent or guardian to seek further professional attention for the child if indicated by the screening. Upon receipt of written permission from the parent or guardian, the

school also shall notify the community oral health coordinator who will serve as a facilitator if further attention is needed upon completion of the screening. The community oral health coordinator also shall maintain all records and data determined necessary by the department.

Data Collection/Outcomes

No funding appropriated, as yet.

State conducts dental screenings every 5 years as part of oral health surveillance program.

* Extensive data has been collected by the *Health Promotion Specialists (HPS)* company as detailed in template checklist. Data reveals “100% success rate in connecting the urgent needs to care over the past 4 years. Additionally, HPS has eliminated the disparity between black and white children that have sealants in the first 5 years of its program”.

Anecdotal Feedback/Misc.:

The initial and continued implementation of these provisions are contingent upon the appropriation of adequate funding. There is no mandatory financial obligation to the Department of Health and Environmental Control, the Department of Education, or school districts within the counties chosen to participate if adequate funding is not appropriated or made available.

Program guidelines must be promulgated in regulations.

Links:

South Carolina Law > **Code of Laws** > **Title 44-** Community Oral Health Coordinator