

Mississippi Seals

School-Based Dental Sealant Program

What is Mississippi Seals?

Mississippi Seals is a collaborative effort between local schools and community partners to help reduce oral health disparities in school-aged children. This **Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) dental program** will provide materials to community partners to provide onsite services at schools such as oral health education, dental screenings, fluoride varnish applications and dental sealants. In addition to offering school-based dental prevention, the program collects disease surveillance data and works to improve access to dental care for children and families in Mississippi.



What are Dental Sealants?

Dental sealants are thin, plastic coatings painted on the chewing surfaces of the back teeth to prevent tooth cavities. By covering the chewing surfaces of the molars, sealants keep out the bacteria and food that cause decay. Sealants are safe, painless and take only minutes for a dental professional to apply. No drilling or anesthesia required.

How Does the Program Work?

The Mississippi State Department of Health will help link providers with local schools. Each community partner will be given materials from the Mississippi State Department of Health. These materials include Air-Water Syringe Tips, Saliva Ejectors (Suction tips), I-Pak disposable mirror/explorer pack, patient bibs, ear loop mask, etc. Dental professionals in your community will implement a school-based dental sealant program in designated areas of the school for minimal class time disruption. Parental consent is required for participation and dental referrals are provided to all participants for follow-up care. Regional oral health consultants will collect data using Sealant and Efficiency Assessment for Local States (SEALS) data forms from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Who is Eligible?

Eligible schools are defined as those located in urban areas in which more than 50 percent of the student population of that school participates in federal or state free and reduced price lunch programs; and rural school districts having a median income that is at or below 235 percent of the federal poverty line. All children enrolled at participating schools are eligible regardless of recent dental visits, dental coverage, or ability to pay.

For program enrollment contact:

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