



# Oral Health For All



## THE ORAL HEALTH FUNDERS COLLABORATIVE SUPPORTS GOOD ORAL HEALTH FOR ALL OREGONIANS

The Oral Health Funders Collaborative consists of leading philanthropic organizations that have come together to promote best practices for improving oral health across the lifespan of every Oregonian.

In partnership with the Oregon Oral Health Coalition and the Oregon Health Authority, the Collaborative created *The Strategic Plan for Oral Health in Oregon: 2014-2020*. This plan reflects the consensus of **nearly 200 oral health advocates**. It is endorsed by **more than 30 organizations and agencies working to improve oral health**.

### HB 2972: DENTAL SCREENINGS FOR OREGON STUDENTS



House Bill 2972 mandates oral health screenings for Oregon public school students age 7 and younger. This bill aligns with the *Strategic Plan's* call for Oregon schools to include a dental screening along with mandatory vision and hearing tests. Early dental screening and timely treatment are fundamental to reducing the burden of childhood oral disease in Oregon, and to the overall good of our state.

### WHY IS HB 2972 NECESSARY?

- **Tooth decay is Oregon's most common chronic childhood disease.** Dental screenings and treatment can reduce the incidence of tooth decay and other common oral diseases.
- **Children with poor oral health are three times more likely to miss school.** HB 2972 will help to ensure that all Oregon students are ready and able to learn.
- **Visits to hospital emergency rooms for tooth pain cost Oregon approximately \$8 million every year.** Early dental screenings can save money by reducing oral disease among high-risk populations.
- **School-based prevention programs are effective.** Oregon schools already mandate screenings for vision and hearing. Screening for oral disease is a logical extension of these essential health services.

