



STRENGTHEN ORAL HEALTH

CARE COORDINATION

SCHOOL SEALANT PROGRAMS SAVE KIDS' TEETH

Oregon has very successful School Dental Screening and Sealant Programs. These programs provide safe, effective and free cavity prevention in elementary and middle schools in every county.

Dental sealants prevent up to 80% of cavities on the chewing surface of back teeth [1]. Untreated cavities can cause pain and infections, leading to problems eating, speaking, playing and learning.



SB597 FUNDS CRITICAL CARE COORDINATION

In-school programs need coordination to ensure children are connected with care and to remove barriers to seek it. Care coordination is as crucial to oral health as other aspects of health care, particularly among underserved populations.

This bill appropriates **\$900,000** to OHA to provide grants to OHA-certified School Dental Screening and Sealant Programs. Each program would receive a similar amount, without an elaborate grant application. Currently, there is no specific reimbursement available for care coordination.



747 SCHOOLS



had a Certified School Dental Sealant Program

26,776 STUDENTS



received sealants

96,287 SEALANTS



were placed

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Source: OHA, "School Dental Sealant Programs," www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/preventionwellness/oralhealth/school/pages/schooldentalsealantprogram.aspx. Data from 2022-23 school year.