



## Mississippi State Department of Health

### ***Mississippi Seals***

## School-Based Dental Sealant Program

### **What is *Mississippi Seals*?**

***Mississippi Seals*** is a collaborative effort between the Mississippi State Department of Health and community partners to reduce oral health disparities in school-aged children. This preventive dental program provides services on site at school such as 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 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 Seals*** coordinator recruits qualified dental professionals in your community to implement a school based dental sealant program. Schools are selected based on program eligibility. On-site dental screenings, sealants, and fluoride varnish applications are provided using portable equipment or mobile units for minimal class time disruption. Parental consents are required for participation and dental referrals are provided to all participants for follow up care. Sealant and Efficiency Assessment for Local States (SEALS) data forms are used to collect disease data.

### **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 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.

### **How Do I Get Involved?**

For program enrollment contact:

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