



CDA Partners With State Assembly Member Roger Hernández and San Gabriel Valley Dental Society to Provide Dental Screenings to Students
Screenings will satisfy California's oral health assessment law

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Sacramento, Calif. — The California Dental Association, in partnership with the San Gabriel Valley Dental Society and State Assembly Member Roger Hernández, will offer free oral health screenings to pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students at Walnut Elementary School in Baldwin Park on Friday, Sept. 9, 8 to 11 a.m.

CDA anticipates more than 200 students will attend the free oral health assessment. In addition to having their teeth checked for signs of decay and receiving lessons on proper brushing and flossing techniques, students will be provided with 'Love Your Dentist' health kits – zippered pouches containing toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss to continue healthy brushing habits at home.

The screenings will satisfy a state law requiring students to have an oral health assessment within their first year of school (kindergarten or first grade). The intent of the law (AB 1433) is to determine unmet dental needs, support children's school readiness and encourage regular dental care.

"The Children's Oral Health Assessment Law carries an essential message to parents about the important relationship between a child's oral health and overall health," said Assembly Member Roger Hernández, who will be on hand during the oral health screenings. "Children must be healthy in order to learn at their full potential, and children with cavities are not healthy."

Tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood disease, more common than both asthma and obesity, affecting nearly two-thirds of California's children by the time they reach third grade. Although tooth decay is easily preventable, it is a progressive infection that does not heal without treatment. Left untreated, dental disease can have debilitating effects, including chronic pain, distracting children from learning and impacting their ability to eat properly, smile, and feel good about themselves.

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About the California Dental Association

The California Dental Association is the non-profit organization representing organized dentistry in California. Founded in 1870, CDA is committed to the success of our members in service to their patients and the public. CDA also contributes to the oral health of Californians through various comprehensive programs and advocacy. CDA's membership consists of more than 25,000 dentists, making it the largest constituent of the American Dental Association. For more information, visit cda.org.

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