

GEORGIA ORAL HEALTH PREVENTION PROGRAM

“Reaching Georgia's Children Where They Learn”

The oral health of children is directly linked to their overall health and well-being in a number of ways. Apart from the impact on their nutritional status through their ability to chew and swallow food, dental disease imposes educational, financial and social burdens and can adversely affect speech, self-esteem and the ability to learn.



More than
51 million
school hours are
lost each year
because of
dental-related
illness.

U.S. Surgeon General's
Report on Oral Health

Scientific research provides direction for schools to incorporate school-based health programs to improve academic performance. Coordinated school health programming is a fundamental component of a school's larger mission to educate and promote successful child development. To assist schools in ensuring that students come to school ready and able to learn, the *Georgia Oral Health Prevention Program* provides school-based dental prevention, education and treatment services for low- and middle-income high-risk children who have limited access to dental services, particularly those who live in rural areas. Through the use of portable equipment and mobile dental units, the *Georgia Oral Health Prevention Program* primarily serves children in preschool and elementary grades. The program targets elementary schools that have high eligibility numbers for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program and students who may not be eligible for Medicaid/PeachCare or lack dental insurance.