Dear Principal Name,

Well-Ahead Louisiana, an initiative of the Louisiana Department of Health and Partner Name would like to invite you to participate in our Louisiana Seals Smiles Program. Studies show that healthy students are better learners. This program gives students the opportunity for a healthy smile, which is vital to overall health. School Name is eligible to participate.

Childhood obesity has more than tripled since the 1970s. But, did you know that tooth decay remains the most common chronic disease among children? Studies show that children who receive preventative dental treatments at school have 60% fewer new cavities. From 2016-2018, Well-Ahead Louisiana conducted an oral health screening among Louisiana’s third grade students. This uncovered that a startling 56.4% of Louisiana third graders had dental caries experience, 26.2% had an untreated cavity, and 23.1% needed to be referred to a dentist for further treatment. Discomfort from untreated oral health issues can cause difficulty concentrating and school absences. Every student deserves the opportunity to be healthy. Their smile is a great place to start.

Louisiana Seals Smiles provides free dental sealants, fluoride varnish applications and oral health education to eligible children ages 6-14. Dental sealants are thin, plastic, protective coatings placed on the chewing surface of permanent teeth. Fluoride varnish is a gel substance that is directly applied to the teeth—it takes less than two minutes to apply and dries almost instantly. Both are extremely effective in preventing tooth decay and cavities.

If you opt-in to Louisiana Seals Smiles, a licensed dentist will visit your school and assess the oral health needs of your students. If needed, a licensed dental hygienist will then place dental sealants on the primary molars and apply fluoride varnish to all teeth.

To participate, please complete and return the School Participation Form. I will reach out soon to discuss details. If you have questions, feel free to contact name, phone number or email. Together, we can move the health of Louisiana students forward.

Remember, dental care is often a child’s top unmet health need.

Healthy Wishes,

Name of Program Coordinator

Program Coordinator Role