



A Message to Parents and School Administrators Regarding School Absence for Dental Appointments

The **California Dental Association** recognizes the importance of regular school attendance and the effect of chronic absence on academic performance. We encourage our members to work with parents and educators to minimize school absence whenever possible. It is not feasible, however, to provide all care children need during non-school hours. For this reason, **school policies that prevent legitimate school absence for the purpose of health care visits harm children and are in violation of the California Education Code.**

California Education Code §48205(a)(3) provides that a pupil shall be excused from school when the absence is for the purpose of having medical, dental, optometric, or chiropractic services rendered.

The **California Dental Association** urges parents, school administrators and member dentists to work together to ensure that children receive needed care while minimizing school absences.