

Jurisdictional Class: Competitive
Adopted: March 23, 1998
Revised: May 11, 2010

DENTAL HYGIENIST (SCHOOLS)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This position involves responsibility for dental examinations and oral prophylaxis of school children. The work is performed under the general supervision of a Dentist, who is available for consultation on unusual problems, and the School Nurse, with considerable leeway allowed for the exercise of independent judgment in carrying out the details of the work. Supervision may be exercised over a Dental Assistant. The incumbent does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: (Illustrative only)

Plans and develops an informational and preventive dental health program for school children;
Makes educational presentation to school children on proper brushing and flossing procedures and on sealant program using visual aids and materials;
Distributes sealant brochure and parental consent forms authorizing the conduct of sealing procedure for children;
Performs oral examination of children's teeth in order to detect carious lesions, periodontal pockets, and other abnormal conditions;
Prepares teeth for sealant application including performing prophylaxis and washing and drying, acid conditioning techniques;
Applies dental sealant on teeth to prevent cavities;
Reexamines children's teeth and reapplies sealant to surfaces from which partial or complete loss of sealant occurred;
Maintains records on dental work performed;
Notifies parents of dental problems such as caries, abnormalities, malocclusion, and poor oral hygiene habits;
Coordinates with the School Nurse regarding need for follow-up examinations.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES & PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Good knowledge of the principles, practices, and techniques of dental hygiene and oral prophylactics;
Good knowledge of the basic principles, practices, and techniques of dental health education;
Skill in handling dental instruments and apparatus;
Ability to prepare dental health education materials;
Ability to prepare and maintain dental records, charts, and reports;
Ability to establish and maintain effective interpersonal relationships;
Ability to understand and carry out oral and written instructions;
Ability to work effectively with children;
Sound professional judgment.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Possession of current valid license to practice dental hygiene in New York State.