



# Establishing a School- Based Dental Sealant Program

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# Practical Aspects of Operating a School-based Dental Sealant Program

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using

**Seal America:  
The Prevention Invention**

as a guide

# Introduction

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- Purpose
- Burdon of oral disease
- School-based dental sealant programs (advantages)
- Conclusion
- References

# Step 1: Getting Started

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- Planning committee
- Needs assessment
- Geographic area
- Target population (income, age)
- Number of students eligible for the program
- References

# Target Population: Factors to Consider

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- Tooth eruption rates
- Susceptibility
- Risk
- Participation rates
- School structure
- Class schedules

## Step 2: Gaining and Maintaining Community Support

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- Establishing an advisory committee
- Gaining support from local oral health community
- Gaining support from school officials
- Working with school administrators and staff
- Gaining support of city council, boards of health, county commissioners, and philanthropic organizations

# Advisory Group: Factors to Consider

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- Representative of community
- Support without day-to-day involvement
- Champions of the program
- Providers (education, political support, funding)
- Influence within relevant community groups (oral health providers, school officials, nurses, others)

## Step 3: Staffing

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- Clinical staff
- Administrative staff
- Contractors
- Volunteers
- References

# Clinical Staff: Factors to Consider

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- Dentists – assessments
- Dental hygienists and dental assistants – sealant application using four handed technique

In efficiently operated school-based dental sealant programs, one team working 5 days/week can place dental sealants on 3,300 to 3,600 students/school year

# Administrative Staff: Factors to Consider

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- Roles vary according to size of the program

Program administrators need to read their state's practice act carefully and to check it regularly for updates

Seal America manual also addresses factors to consider with contractors and volunteers

## Step 4: Purchasing Dental Equipment and Supplies

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- Dental clinic within a school-based health center
- Mobile dental vans
- Portable dental equipment
- Supplies
- References

# Equipment



# Portable Dental Equipment: Unit

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- High speed evacuation
- Air/water syringe
- Self-contained waters source
- Tripod stand

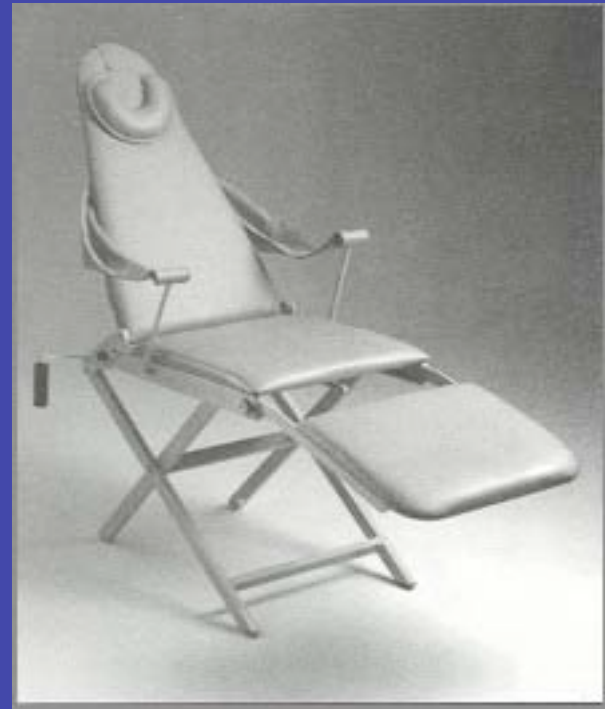
# Portable Dental Equipment: Air Compressor

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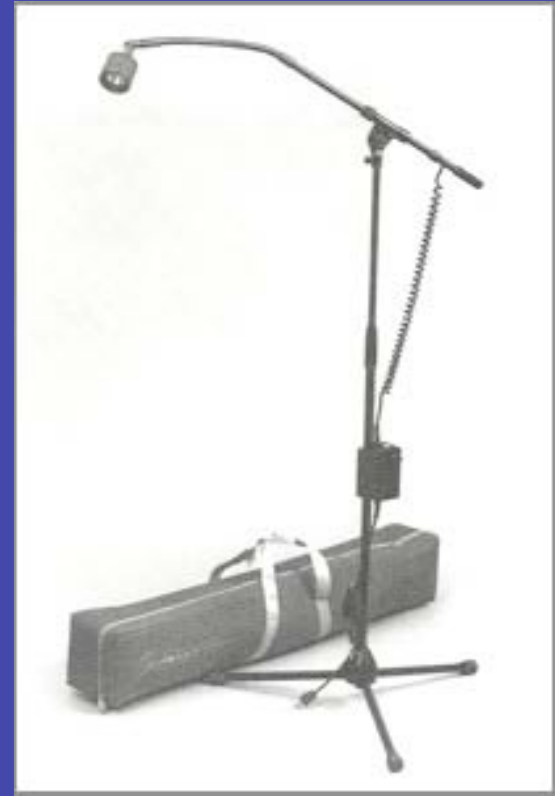
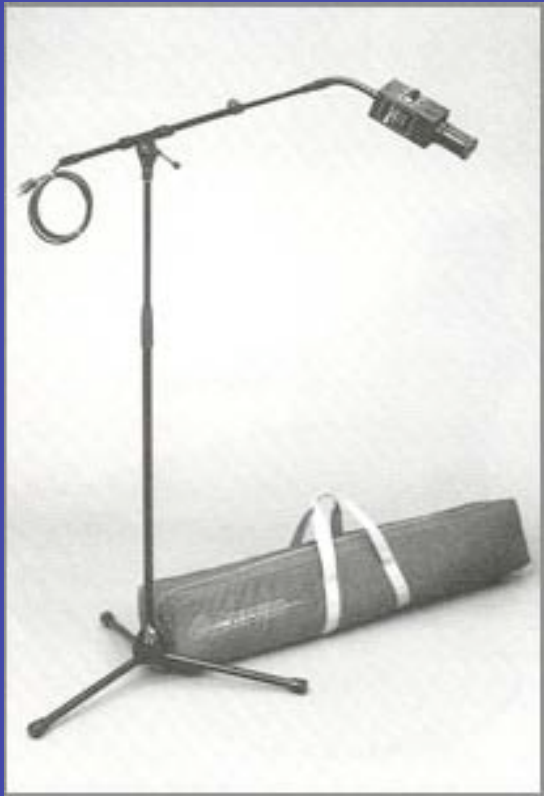
# Portable Dental Equipment: Dental Chair

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# Portable Dental Equipment: Light

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# Portable Dental Equipment: Operator Stools

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# Portable Dental Equipment: Sterilizer & Ultrasonic Cleaner

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# Portable Dental Equipment: Miscellaneous Equipment

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# Supplies

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- List in manual
  - Staff and student protection
  - Treatment
  - Sterilization and disinfection
  - Other
- Storage issues

# Dental Sealant Material

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- Manual discusses:
  - Types of sealant material
  - Light or self-cured
  - Colored or clear
- More detail from Dr. Donly

## Step 5: Funding

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- Obtaining initial funding
- Sustaining funding
- References

# Step 6: Developing Forms and Records, Tracking Students, & Analyzing & Collecting Data

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- Planning for information management
- Printing forms and records
- Collecting data
- Consent forms
- Student records
- Analyzing data

# Developing Forms, Tracking Students, & Analyzing and Collecting Data

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- Information management considerations including HIPAA
- Issues on printing forms
- Examples of student records and consent forms
- SEALS (Sealant Efficiency Assessment for Locals and States) data

# Step 7: Preparing to Launch

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- Staff training and information
- Scheduling schools
- Obtaining parental consent
- References

# Additional Preparations

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- Staff training
  - Sealant application
  - Infection control
  - HIPAA
  - Tooth assessment
  - Patient management
- Scheduling schools
- Obtaining parental consent
  - Realistic goals
    - 2nd grade: 50–60%
    - 6th grade: 45–50%
    - 7th/8th grade: <30%

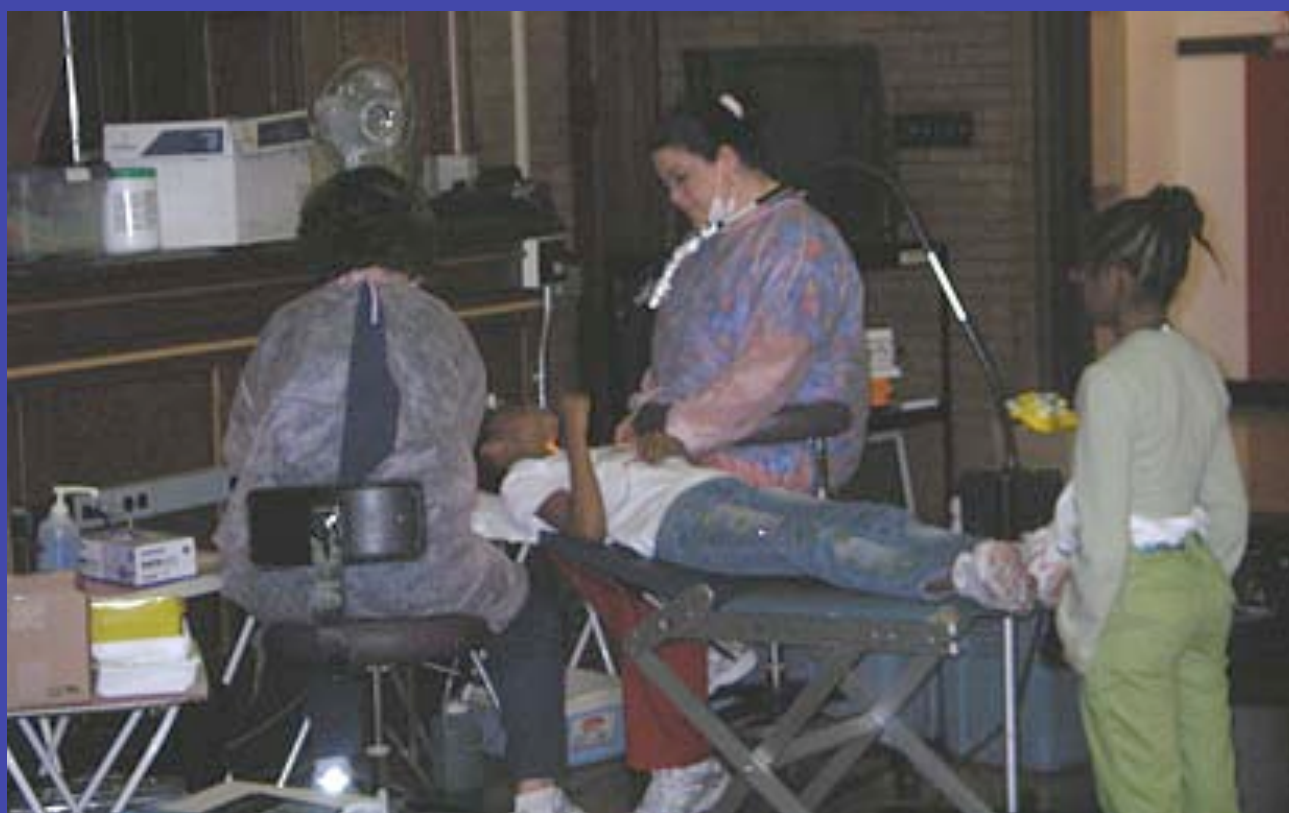
# Step 8: Implementing the Program

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- Program setup
- Student assessments
- Patient flow during sealant placement
- Technique
- References

# Implementation of a School-Based Dental Sealant Program

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# Students are Brought to the Operatory by Classroom for Assessments

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# Assessments Are Conducted

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# Dental Sealants Are Applied

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# Tray Set Up

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## Step 9: Referral and Follow-up

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- Identifying community resources
- Working with parents
- Involving school nurses
- Tracking referral effectiveness
- Strategies

# Community Resources

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- Private practitioners
- Safety net dental clinics
- School-linked arrangements
- Mobile vans

# Working with Parents

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- Enrolling children in state Medicaid or SCHIP programs
- Addressing transportation issues
- Arranging appointments for specialty care
- Ensuring case management

# Tracking Effectiveness of Referrals

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- Identifies successful strategies
- Informs the program improvement process

# Step 10: Program Evaluation

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- Determining dental sealant quality
- Determining program costs
- Program participation
- Other evaluation tools
- References

# Program Evaluation

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- Dental sealant quality
  - Short-term retention rates
  - Long-term retention rates
- Cost
  - Cost/sealant
  - Cost/child
- Program Participation
  - Average 50%

# Program Evaluation: Other Considerations

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- Data and record management
- Infection control
- Exposure control
- Compliance with rules and regulations (HIPAA, state dental practice acts)

# Questions???



[www.mchoralhealth.org/seal](http://www.mchoralhealth.org/seal)