

## **New Law Requires Dental Exams for Students Entering 9<sup>th</sup> Grade**

January 2019

A new Illinois law that took effect on January 1, 2019, now requires children to have a dental exam performed by a dentist before starting high school. Previously, Public Act 100-0829 applied to children in kindergarten, second and sixth grades, but now expands to cover students entering ninth grade. The law applies to public, private and parochial schools and goes into effect for the new 2019-2020 school year.

“Our children are our most precious resource, and every child deserves to enter school free of dental pain or problems. Unfortunately, tooth decay and dental disease is a leading cause of decreased school performance and lost school days,” states ISDS President Dr. Randall Markarian.

Children in the designated grades must have a dental exam performed by a dentist by May 15 of the end of their school year or present proof to their school that their exam has been scheduled in the next 60 days. Failure to present proof of the dental examination by May 15 may result in the school holding the child’s report card, unless the child present proof of the completed dental exam or proof that a dental exam will take place within 60 days after May 15. The Department of Public Health will establish a waiver for children who show an undue burden due to lack of access to a dentist.