

### **Certification Staffing Assignment Dental Hygienist**

Dental Hygienist is the science of the study of the knowledge and competence required in addressing the dental care needs of school-aged children, K-12.

#### Grade Level Scope of Certificate:

A person holding a valid PA certificate for Dental Hygienist is qualified to teach a dental hygiene course of study and to provide oral cavity and jaw dental hygiene service to students in Grades K through 12.

#### Certification Assignment:

An educator holding a valid PA Dental Hygienist certificate is qualified to develop and present educational and preventative dental health programs to students.

#### Certificate Clarification:

Districts are required only to employ a certified school dental hygienists if they choose to implement a program of dental hygiene services in lieu of the mandated dental examination required in the Public School Code to occur upon original entry into school, in the third and seventh grades. The required examinations are to be administered by dentists. However, when a school district employs a dental hygienist, that individual must be certified. A dental hygienist may serve as a learning resource specialist during instruction in health classes when such instruction deals exclusively with the care and preservation of teeth, dental appliances, and dental hygiene.

A dental hygienist may not serve as a teacher of dental procedures as this requires a vocational instructional certificate.

#### Special Consideration:

The certified educator may teach such coursework to students including special education or gifted students within the scope of the certificate.

#### References:

Program Specific Guidelines for Certification

24 P.S:       §12-1202  
                  §12-1212  
                  §14-1403  
                  §16-1604

22 Pa. Code

CSPG No. 75  
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July 1, 2004

Educational Specialist Area Code 1830

Chapter 49: §49.11  
              §49.101 – 4.105

*This revision supersedes all earlier CSPG's carrying this number and/or addressing this subject. Previous printing dates on this subject: 1973,' 3/75,' 3/78,' 2/82; 1/87*