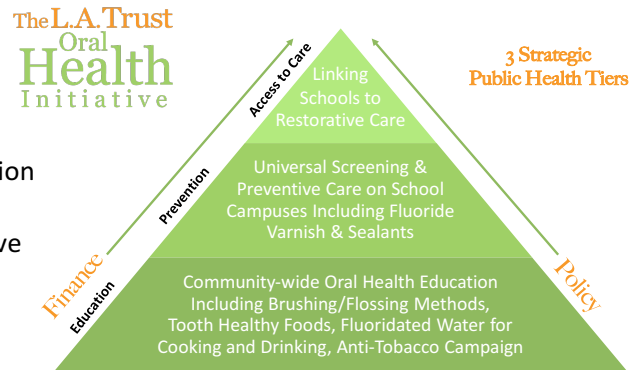


The L.A. Trust Oral Health Initiative Best Practices*

The L.A. Trust's Oral Health Initiative works to address this crucial issue in three areas:

- Providing community-wide oral health education
- Providing direct preventive care and early intervention on school campuses
- Linking all elementary school campuses to restorative care

Below are best practices relating to each of these three areas.



Community-wide Oral Health Education

Tailored oral health education for parents, students, teachers, and school administrators. Education should emphasize in a clear and direct manner:

- Causes, processes and effects of oral diseases
- Need for regular dental care
- Use of preventive dental agents
- Diet and nutrition and their relation to oral health
- Oral injury prevention
- Drinking fluoridated water

Universal Prevention on School Campuses

A basic level of preventive oral health care (screening, fluoride varnish, sealants, referrals) for all students. An ideal pilot program school site has:

- A high-need population (at least 50% of the children participating in the Federal Free and Reduced School Lunch Program)
- Physical space available
- Support of the administration
- Active parent volunteers
- Support from teachers
- Committed dental providers as partner

Access to Restorative Care

Ensuring students have regular and adequate access to an affordable dentist in their area. Action items:

- Equipping all school personnel with an up-to-date list of current dental providers
- Increasing the number of dental providers who accept low-income and uninsured child patients
- Increasing on-site dental restorative services (mobile chairs, mobile vans, services through our [Wellness Centers](#))
- Developing a referral updating system to track changes
- Online dental directory, accessible by anyone

**Portions of the information on this page sourced from: Tackling Barriers to Children's Oral Health in Los Angeles Unified School District: A Strategic Initiative of the L.A. Trust for Children's Health; by Jennifer Frehn, MPH Student, Fielding School of Public Health, University of California, Los Angeles; Poster, Southern California Public Health Association, 2012 Annual Conference.*