School-based sealant programs bring preventive oral health care to the students. Preventive services include dental screens, oral health education, fluoride varnish application, and dental sealants. In North Dakota, there are two organizations that provide school-based sealant programs:

1. SEAL!ND through the North Dakota Department of Health Oral Health Program

2. The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile in partnership with Bridging the Dental Gap, Inc.

Combining the efforts of SEAL!ND and the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile’s School-Based Sealant Program, in North Dakota during the 2019-2020 school year:

- **100** schools participated in a school-based sealant program
- **4,106** students had a dental screen
- **4,098** students received fluoride varnish
- **6,917** teeth were protected with dental sealants

**Dental Sealants**

Dental sealants are thin coatings that, when painted on, protect chewing surfaces of back teeth (molars) from food and germs and prevent cavities. Once applied, sealants protect against 80% of cavities for two years and continue to protect against 50% of cavities for up to four years.
SEAL!ND

SEAL!ND has been providing dental sealants, oral health education, dental screenings, and referrals for students throughout North Dakota dating back to 2012. The state Department of Health Oral Health Program continues to administer SEAL!ND utilizing dollars from both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Resources and Services Administration. SEAL!ND provides services to a majority (80%) of the schools participating in a school-based sealant program. Some children were unable to sit for the dental screen, or they were absent for the first screen but were then able to receive fluoride varnish. Because of this, more children received varnish than those who received a full screen.

Ronald McDonald Care Mobile

The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile provides mobile dental care in a variety of settings, and host their own school-based sealant program in partnership with Bridging the Dental Gap.

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For More Information
Visit the North Dakota Oral Health Program webpage at https://oral.health.nd.gov
Visit the Center for Rural health webpage at https://ruralhealth.und.edu/what-we-do/oral-health

Citations
1. cdc.gov/oralhealth/dental_sealant_program/index.htm