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News Release

Mobile Dentists Give Premier Academy Students Something New to Smile About

*Smile Illinois Coming to Joliet Alternative School
November 21-22*

Joliet, IL October 17, 2006: Students at Premier Academy, a Joliet alternative high school and middle school, will be able to go to the dentist when they go to school on November 21-22, 2006.

SMILE Illinois, a nonprofit organization of dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistance, will bring mobile dental equipment to the 51 W. Jackson Street campus to provide dental services for Premier students. The dental professionals are dedicated to improving the health of children who may not have regular access to quality dental care. In partnership with the Children’s Dental Health Foundation, they take their charitable practice to a variety of places, including schools, day care centers, businesses, and military establishments.

Cheryl Rogers, Coordinator of the Student Support Services Program at Premier Academy, said she has been working for months to bring this program to Premier students as yet another way of enhancing their ability to focus on learning. Students who are suffering from dental pain or cavities, or are embarrassed by the condition of their teeth, can be distracted by these problems.

“Often, there are too many barriers that stand in the way of a child’s education,” Rogers said. “Premier Academy Student Support Services team is partnering with providers to bring services into the program that can help relieve stress associated with these barriers.”

Students will be bringing home notes with consent forms that must be completed by a parent or guardian and returned in order to receive the free services, which include a dental exam, cleaning, flouride treatment, and sealants to prevent tooth decay, along with a free toothbrush.

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Premier Academy is part of the Regional Safe Schools Program (RSSP) operated by the Education Service Network and administered by Rich Duran, Will County Regional Superintendent of Schools. The mission of Student Support Services is to strengthen educational and workforce services by offering an array of programs that support, empower, and encourage the student's unique needs through positive reinforcements, social services, and community linkages that help adolescents achieve success in society