Arkansas

Dental sealants are clear plastic coatings applied to cavity-prone permanent molars. Research shows that school-based sealant programs reduce tooth decay by 60 percent at one-third the cost of a filling. Arkansas’ grade in 2014, a C-, is an improvement from a D in 2012, because hygienists can now place sealants in schools if a collaborative agreement with a dentist is in place. However, Arkansas received a “minus” because Medicaid does not reimburse for portable dentistry.

Arkansas earned 6 out of a possible 11 points on sealant policies.

For a detailed description of the grading system, see the methodology section of the report at pewtrusts.org/dentalsealants.