

DANB's compilation of state dental assisting requirements is one of the most comprehensive resources available on this topic. The updates below highlight dental assisting state legislative and regulatory changes from August 2025 to April 2026.

Arizona

Following a new state law enacted March 31, 2025, the Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners filed Substantive Policy Statement #1: Board Approved Oral Preventive Assistant Training Courses, effective Aug. 8, 2025. It outlines the minimum standards for prerequisites, curriculum, and clinical instruction that a course must meet to be considered Board approved.

California

On Oct. 10, 2025, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed SB 861, which updates requirements for multiple professional boards and agencies, including the Dental Board of California. The legislation changes the composition of the Board by removing a requirement that it include a registered dental hygienist and replacing this role with a second registered dental assistant. The registered dental assistant members must be registered in the state for at least five years before their appointment.

Delaware

On Sept. 3, 2025, Gov. Matt Meyer signed SB 122, Health Care Workforce Planning, which requires that state regulators work with professional boards to determine what data should be collected during licensing and renewal processes for a range of healthcare professions including medical, dental, and social work. By improving data collection and analysis, the bill seeks to address workforce gaps, support educational program alignment, and help the state better support its aging population and increasing rates of chronic disease.

Indiana

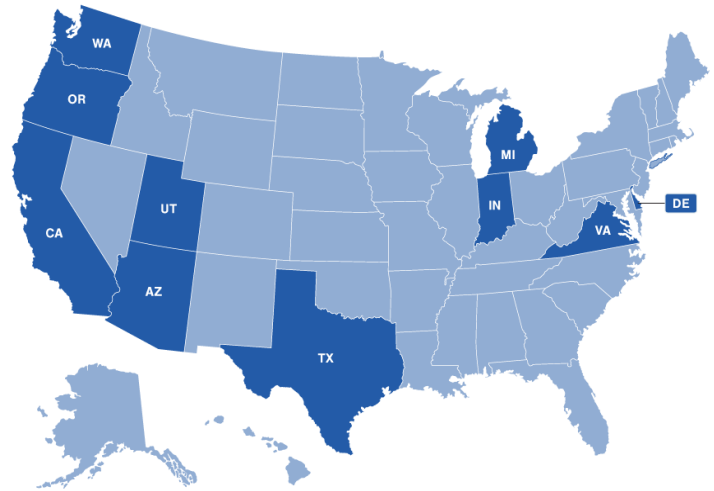
Gov. Mike Braun signed SB 180/HB 1254 on March 3, 2026. The new law, which goes into effect July 1, 2026, amends the requirements for administration of nitrous oxide by a dental assistant by updating training requirements to include completion of courses approved by the Board and also allows a foreign-trained dentist to practice as a dental hygienist.

Michigan

Signed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on Oct. 5, 2025, HB 4706 allocates \$2 million for federally qualified health center (FQHC) training programs to partner with a state health center careers training program to provide additional recruitment and training opportunities for FQHC employees, including medical and dental assistants.

Oregon

At its Oct. 24, 2025, meeting, the Oregon Board of Dentistry (OBD) approved amended administrative rules clarifying state certification requirements. As they discontinued the administration of the Oregon Basic (ORB) exam in 2024, these regulations remove references to that exam. Candidates are instead required to pass DANB's Infection Control (ICE) exam for the Expanded Function Dental Assistant, Expanded Function Orthodontic Dental Assistant, and Expanded Function



Preventive Dental Assistant certificates. Candidates who passed the ORB before its discontinuation are still able to use their ORB result to qualify for an Oregon expanded function certificate. The new rules also add provisions for the Board to issue a Local Anesthesia Functions Certificate (LAFC) to a dental assistant who holds an Oregon Certified Anesthesia Dental Assistant Certificate and has successfully completed a Board-approved curriculum from a program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association or other course of instruction approved by the Board. The new rules went into effect Dec. 1, 2025.

Texas

The Texas State Board of Dental Examiners (TSBDE) recently revised a number of rules relating to registration requirements for dental assistants, including:

- Rule §114.2 Registration of Dental Assistants, to reflect the current TSBDE online application process. Effective March 16, 2026, the new rule also revises radiography requirements to include both film and digital formats, and adds a provision for the proper disposal of chemicals used in developing radiographs.
- Rule §114.6 General Qualifications for Registration for Dental Assistants, to specify the documentation required to ensure that only qualified and legally authorized individuals can practice in the state. The rule went into effect March 15, 2026.
- Rule §114.7 Exemption from Registration for Certain Military Service Members and Military Spouses, to modify application requirements and expedite application processing time from 30 days to 10 days for the TSBDE to notify the military member or spouse about the status of their application. The revision was effective March 12, 2026.

Utah

Regulations approved Nov. 24, 2025, establish a Dental Education Advisory Committee (DEAC) membership including one dental assistant with an expanded function certification. The DEAC will assist the Board in its duties, functions, and responsibilities, including advising on proposed practice areas for each expanded function dental auxiliary certification, recommending the minimum required education and training, the scope and limitations for each certification, and education courses for each expanded function.

Virginia

Gov. Abigail Spanberger signed HB 970/SB 178 into law April 9, 2026. The new law, which goes into effect July 1, 2026, allows a Dental Assistant I or II with 1,800 hours of clinical experience to perform supragingival scaling and coronal polishing under dentist supervision.

Washington

A new rule approved Dec. 18, 2025, amends licensure requirements for Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries (EFDAs) by modifying the training requirements for amalgam restorations. Previously, EFDAs were required to complete training on both typodonts and clinical patients. The amendment makes this dual training optional, allowing EFDAs to complete training on either typodonts or clinical patients. A separate rule requires a minimum age of 18 for registered dental assistants, allowing exceptions for those under 18 who are enrolled in a recognized healthcare career training or vocational education program. Both new rules went into effect Jan. 18, 2026.