



## DID YOU KNOW?

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# What Can Your Practice Do To Help?

Michigan law now requires children entering kindergarten have a dental assessment by **October 31**. Michigan's new Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment (KOHA) is important since poor oral health can affect a child's attendance, grades, and overall performance in school. MI KOHA helps ensure each student is healthy and ready for a successful school year! The ultimate goal of this program is to establish a dental home for each child. The program will identify children who need further examination and dental treatment, and will identify barriers to receiving care. **You play a critical role in ensuring the success of this program.**

## COMPLETE THE KOHA

As a dental provider, the assessment, or evaluation, can be met in many ways. It can be a complete examination and treatment plan performed by a dentist, or it can be a more basic oral health evaluation, such as a screening, which can be performed by a dentist, hygienist or an extended function registered dental assistant with supervision.

### How do you fill out the form?

Please visit [mmdhd.org/dental-care](http://mmdhd.org/dental-care) to review KOHA and download a copy of the MDHHS Health Appraisal form. The state-required assessment form is simply a tool to collect data about children's oral health and communicate it to MMDHD and the state. After you complete the form, your provide the form and the findings back to the parent or caregiver and they provide it to the school no later than October 31.

### WHEN A PARENT CALLS

▶ If you are already this family's dentist, it should be a routine matter for your office to schedule a dental examination for the child. The oral health assessment requirement is not intended to alter your usual office protocol with regard to new or recall child exams. The only "additional" part of the visit is completion of the required assessment form.

If the child is already a patient-of-record and has had an examination within the last 12 months, the results of that exam will satisfy the requirement. Your office may want to develop a protocol for parents asking if you will complete the form based on the child's record from the last exam.

## Your participation is essential to the success of these efforts.

Mid-Michigan District Health Department is providing on-site Oral Health Assessment screening days and special opportunities through health fairs and health events. Although, many schools work with local dental practices or already established school-based screening programs to ensure all of their new kindergartners get at least a minimal evaluation. This is a combined opportunity to create effective systems of screening, triage, and referral for children whose families may experience barriers to dental care. Your participation is essential to the success of these efforts.

### Questions?

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