

KINDERGARTEN ORAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT



What's New for Kindergarten?

Early detection and treatment of dental problems can help children succeed in school. That's why Michigan passed a law making dental assessments required upon entry into a child's first year of school effective with the 2024-25 school year.

KOHA

The Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment (KOHA) is a new program that is similar to Michigan's Hearing and Vision Screening Programs and is also facilitated by local health departments.

Questions?

Visit:

www.mmdhd.org/dental-care



In The Know

What is an Oral Health Assessment?

An oral, or dental assessment is simply a look in the mouth by a dental hygienist or dentist to identify cavities, signs of disease, or other oral health problems.

What do teeth have to do with school?

Dental problems affect children's school attendance and their ability to learn. These absences cost public schools \$15M annually. Dental assessments will identify those who may have dental related issues and connect them to needed care.

What do school districts need to do?

Schools should work with their local health department to offer on-site screenings, just like Hearing and Vision. Schools should also notify and encourage parents to get their child's assessment completed on time. Then, schools must submit dental assessment data to MDHHS by November 1st.

FAQ'S



How will our students benefit from having a dental assessment?

Oral health problems can cause pain and make it difficult for children to eat, speak, sleep, or even socialize, all of which can prevent children from reaching their full learning potential. Dental assessments improve school readiness and raise awareness of the importance of good oral health. The health department's dental hygienist will provide parents and guardians with the results of the assessment, identify those with dental problems, and connect them with needed care.

Do older children need a dental assessment?

The new dental assessment is only required for children entering kindergarten, or those entering school for the first time in first grade. Though, it is recommended that children of all ages see their dentist regularly.

Who can perform the Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment?

A child's KOHA requirement can be completed by their dentist, or by the Mid-Michigan District Health Department's Registered Dental Hygienist while at school, similar to Hearing and Vision Screenings. If a parent prefers their child's assessment be completed by their dentist, the dentist will need to complete the KOHA Form (MDHHS-6067) for the parent to return to the school.

When should the dental assessments be completed?

The new KOHA mandate states the assessments must be completed prior to kindergarten entrance, but no earlier than 6 months prior to the start of school.

Do schools have to report data to MDHHS?

Yes, schools are required to submit school dental assessment data to MDHHS by November 1st of each year, starting with the 2024-25 school year. Instructions for reporting data will be announced once the reporting mechanism is implemented.

Ready to schedule?

Contact Mid-Michigan District Health Department's Oral Health Coordinator:

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Learn More:

www.mmdhd.org/dental-care