



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

ELIZABETH HERTEL  
DIRECTOR

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** January 11, 2024

**To:** Principals and Superintendents of all Michigan Public, Private and Parochial Schools

**From:** Michele Kawabe, MPH, RD, CDCES  
Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment Program Consultant

**Subject:** Dental Screening for Kindergarten Entrants

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[Public Act 316 of 2023](#) was recently enacted which sets forth the requirement that all children in Michigan enrolling into their first year of school receive an oral health assessment (“dental screening”) prior to starting school. This new requirement begins with the 2024-2025 school year. MDHHS is required by law to establish and maintain a statewide Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment Program (KOHA) to provide the dental assessments at no cost to families. Similar to Michigan’s school-based hearing and vision screening programs, the dental assessment program is carried out at the local level through local health departments or their designee. The program is in Phase 2 of three-year phased implementation plan with the goal for full statewide implementation by the 2025-2026 school year.

Please note the following points regarding the kindergarten dental assessments:

- **Parents/guardians** are responsible for getting their child’s dental assessment completed prior to the first day of kindergarten.
- **Schools** facilitate the assessments by communicating the requirement to parents and by including health department dental screeners in their Roundups or registration events, if available.
- **Local health departments** offer no-cost dental assessments to all eligible children within their service area and coordinate events with local schools and pre-K settings. Not all local health departments currently offer dental assessments; parents/guardians will need to contact their local health department to see if they are offering the dental assessments.
- Dental assessments should take place prior to entry into kindergarten but no earlier than 6 months prior to the start of school.
- Students should be allowed access to school even if a dental assessment has not been completed. Schools *in counties that have implemented the KOHA program* are encouraged to arrange for [local health departments](#) to provide in-school dental assessments during the kindergarten school year in an effort to reach children who did not have the assessment completed prior to enrollment.

- Dental assessment statements (MDHHS-6067) from the local health department or a private dental office are acceptable; documentation of the assessment should be placed in the student's health file.

A map of counties in which KOHA is currently operating can be found at the bottom of the Schools page on the [MDHHS KOHA website](#).

Schools located within a 2024-2025 school year implementation area should do the following:

- Communicate information about the dental assessment requirement to parents. The dental assessment form (MDHHS-6067) and other resources can be found on the [MDHHS KOHA website](#).
- Work with local health department staff to coordinate dental assessments at pre-enrollment events.

Schools NOT located within a 2024-2025 school year implementation area:

- Dental assessments are not yet available through the local health department in your area. Encourage parents/guardians to have the dental assessment done at a private dental office for the 2024-2025 school year.

Should you or your support personnel have questions regarding the kindergarten oral health assessments, please contact Michele Kawabe, Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment Program Consultant – [kawabem@michigan.gov](mailto:kawabem@michigan.gov); (517) 342-4128.