



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

ELIZABETH HERTEL
DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 7, 2025

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

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

Subject: Dental Screening for Kindergarten Entrants

[Section 333.9316](#) of the Public Health Code requires that all children in Michigan enrolled in their first year of school, either kindergarten or 1st grade, receive an oral health assessment (“dental screening”). This requirement began in the 2024-25 school year. MDHHS is required by law to establish and maintain a statewide Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment Program (KOHA) to provide the dental screenings at no cost to families. Similar to Michigan’s school-based hearing and vision screening programs, the dental screening program is carried out at the local level through local health departments or their designee. The program is in Phase 3 of a three-year phased implementation plan with the goal for full statewide implementation by the end of 2025.

Please note the following points regarding the kindergarten dental screenings:

- **Parents/guardians** are responsible for getting their child’s dental screening completed.
- **Schools** facilitate the screenings by communicating the requirement to parents along with the options for screening. Schools can also coordinate with their local health department to provide the screenings on-site during registration events and during the kindergarten school year.
- **Local health departments (or their designees)** offer no-cost dental screenings to all eligible children within their service area and coordinate events with local schools and pre-K settings.
- Dental screenings can take place prior to entry into kindergarten but no earlier than 6 months prior to the start of school. They can also take place during the kindergarten school year through May 31st.
- Children cannot be barred from enrolling in or attending school if the dental screening is not completed prior to the start of the school year. Schools *in counties that have implemented the KOHA program* are encouraged to arrange for local health departments to provide in-school dental screenings during the kindergarten school year in an effort to reach children who did not have it done prior to the start of school.
- The MDHHS Dental Assessment Form (MDHHS-6067) or a letter from a private dental office are acceptable forms of documentation.

- All Michigan schools are required to report their dental screening data to the State. Schools that receive proof of screening from a parent/guardian or local health department should select the “Dental Screened” checkbox in MCIR. Selecting this box in MCIR indicates a student was screened and fulfills the school’s reporting requirement to the State.

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 2025-26 school year implementation area should do the following:

- Communicate information about the dental screening 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 screenings at pre-enrollment events and on-site during the kindergarten school year.

Schools NOT located within a 2025-26 school year implementation area:

- Dental screenings are not yet available through the local health department in your area. Encourage parents/guardians to have the dental screening done at a private dental office for the 2025-26 school year.

Should you or your support personnel have questions regarding the kindergarten dental screenings, please contact Michele Kawabe, Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment Program Consultant – kawabem@michigan.gov; (517) 342-4128.