



## DID YOU KNOW?

Michigan passed a law to give children the opportunity to receive a dental assessment prior to starting school.

# What Can Your Practice Do To Help?

The new Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment Program (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 exam, 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 an assessment, 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 [www.dhd4.org/dental-care](http://www.dhd4.org/dental-care) to review KOHA and download a copy of the MDHHS Health Appraisal form. This state-required appraisal form is simply a tool to collect data about children's oral health and communicate it to DHD4 and the state. After you complete "Section V-Dental Examination and Recommendations", return the form and findings back to the parent or caregiver and they provide it to the school.

### WHEN A PARENT CALLS

If the child is already a patient-of-record and has had an examination within the last 6 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.

The Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment Program 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 appraisal form.

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

District Health Department No. 4 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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