



Spring 2025 - State of Michigan Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment Program

- **How is MDHHS accomplishing this program?** MDHHS is required to establish and maintain a statewide dental screening program to provide the 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.
- **Is a dental screening required for each student enrolling into school?** Yes. All children in Michigan enrolled in their first year of school, either kindergarten or 1st grade, are now required to have a dental screening.
- **When should the dental screening be done?** The screening can be done up to 6 months before the start of school, or during the kindergarten school year through May 31st.
- **Where can children get screened?** Local health departments provide the screenings before the start of kindergarten at places like preschools, school registration events, and community events. They also provide the screenings within schools during the kindergarten school year. There is no cost for the screening if it is done by the local health department. Alternatively, a parent can have the screening done by their own family dentist.
- **How can we help families who do not have a dentist?** Consider assisting families with enrollment into Michigan’s Healthy Kids Dental Program. You can also contact the local health department for help finding a dental home for a family and assistance with community dental resources. The Michigan Oral Health Directory lists dental safety-net resources by county.
- **Do schools have to report any data to MDHHS?** Yes. The law requires that all Michigan schools report their dental screening data to the State. Schools that receive proof of screening from a parent or guardian or local health department should check 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.



2/4/25

[-https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/adult-child-serv/childrenfamilies/familyhealth/oralhealth/koha](https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/adult-child-serv/childrenfamilies/familyhealth/oralhealth/koha)

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