



Have You Heard?

Michigan passed a law to ensure kids entering their first year of school have a dental health assessment prior to starting their first year of school.

Dental problems prevent kids from reaching their full learning potential. Ensuring that kids have access to dental care will help children succeed.

- **Poor dental health affects attendance and grades.** Kids with poor dental health are 3 times more likely to miss school because of dental problems.
- **Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease in children.** Almost half of Michigan Head Start children have tooth decay and close to one third have untreated decay.

What should school districts do?

1. Notify parents by providing the parent flyer in registration packets or parent letters.
2. Encourage parents to have their child's MDHHS Health Assessment form completed by the start of school.
3. Collaborate with the OCDPH to offer free on-site assessment events at Kindergarten Roundups and at other times of the year, between April and August.
4. Compile and submit school summary of assessment forms to MDHHS. Dental assessment information is collected in the MDHHS Dental Health Assessment form.

Who can I contact for more information?

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MDHHS Dental Health Assessment Form



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