



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 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 does a parent or guardian need to do?

1. Download the MDHHS Health Appraisal form using the QR code below or visit miottawa.org/dental.
2. Have Section V of the MDHHS Health Appraisal form completed by your child's dentist or the Ottawa County Department of Public Health between April and the start of school.
3. Return the completed form to your child's school.

The Ottawa County Department of Public Health provides free dental health assessments between April and August in Grand Haven, Hudsonville and Holland. The assessment takes approximately two to three minutes to identify signs of dental problems. The assessment is not intended to take the place of a child's routine dental visit. If your child has a routine dental visit scheduled with their dentist between April and August, the assessment and form can be completed at the same time.

Call to schedule an appointment

English (616) 396-5266

Español (616) 393-5780

**MDHHS Health
Appraisal Form**



*mi*Ottawa Department of
Public Health

Public Act 261 of 2020 helps to ensure children don't lose time in school because of tooth decay or pain. A child will not be excluded from school for failing to provide an MDHHS Health Appraisal form with a completed Section V.