

[AB 2630](#), which passed in September 2024, took effect on January 1, 2025. This new legislation clarifies that the existing Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment (KOHA) requirement ([EC 49452.8](#)) will now apply to children enrolled in Transitional Kindergarten (TK). As a result, students enrolled in TK or K will be required to complete the KOHA form, ensuring earlier oral health screening and intervention.

For schools and Local Oral Health Programs (LOHPs), this change means that efforts to promote KOHA and school dental programs should now include TK students in their outreach and services.

As EC 49452.8 now includes TK in the definition of “kindergarten,” the California Department of Education (CDE) recommends that TK students be treated the same as kindergartners. EC 49452.8 also provides that proof shall be required only once during a two-year kindergarten program.

For reporting purposes under this section, TK students will be counted with the kindergartners and will not be reported as a separate age group in the System for California Oral Health Reporting ([SCOHR](#)). When filling out the KOHA form, enter TK, K or 1<sup>st</sup> Grade.

The law states that students need to be screened once between TK and K grades, or first grade if that is their first year of public school. However, it is recommended that children receive regular dental care to improve school success, reduce chronic absences and improve their overall health.