

Children Now: Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment Efforts and Ideas

Oral Health Project Directors Meeting:
Sacramento, CA January 18, 2019

Children Now efforts to promote KOHA with schools

- County data profiles
- Within local oral health strategic plan processes/oral health coalitions
- Communication via State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) office to educate school administrators
- Case Study Project

County Data Profiles

In Alameda County



35% of school districts **reported kindergarten oral health assessment** data in 2016.



84% of eligible kindergartners in the reporting school districts had an **oral health assessment**.



8% showed signs of **untreated decay** of those assessed.



Did you know ?

State Superintendent Tom Torlakson wrote a letter to all County and District Superintendents and Charter School Administrators encouraging completion and reporting of Kindergarten Oral Health Assessments. View it here:

<https://www.childrennow.org/issue-areas/health/oral-health/letter-state-superintendent-tom-torlakson/>



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

March 3, 2017

Dear County and District Superintendents and Charter School Administrators:

Tooth decay is the most chronic yet preventable health care need among children in California. **It is the cause of 874,000 school days missed each year, which costs schools \$29 to \$32 million annually in average daily attendance funding.**

...more than half of California kindergartners have experienced tooth decay and, by third grade, this number rises to over 70 percent.

...if left untreated, has deleterious effects on children's academic performance, social-emotional development, and sleep and nutrition and leads to poor general health outcomes.

Key messages that resonate with school administrators

- KOHA can be a tool to help reduce school absenteeism – keep kids healthy and at school
- KOHA provides schools with local school and district level data that could be used to ensure children are getting care they need
- There are resources to help support collection and reporting of KOHA data
- (Ideally), KOHA is not just about collecting and reporting the data, but to also ensure children who do not have access to care are identified and referred

The Role of Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF)

- Passed in 2013, LCFF fundamentally changed how schools were financed and governed
- LCFF requires parent and stakeholder engagement to develop a local control accountability plan (LCAP)
- LHJs &/or coalition members can engage in LCAP conversations to raise awareness & advocate for resources to promote compliance with KOHA (e.g. get clerical support to input data, create partnership w/FQHC, etc.)
- Sharing input in the development and evaluation of a school districts LCAP can be shared throughout the year.

Questions?

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