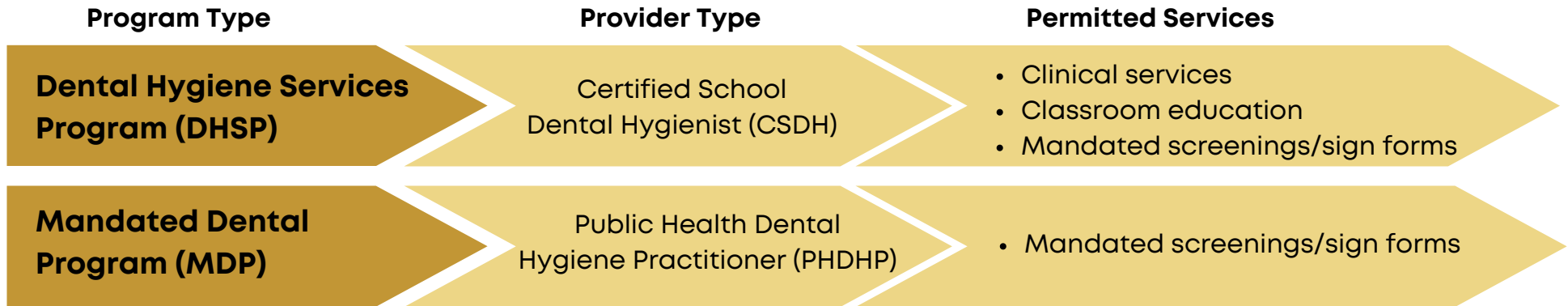




Act 55:

Understanding the Role of Dental Providers and Mandated School Dental Screenings



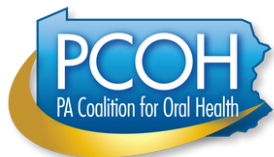
Act 55 of 2023 Updates:

- The Public School Code is amended from dental “**examinations**” to “**screenings**”.
- PHDHPs can complete mandated dental screenings and sign form in schools that **DO NOT** have a DHSP.
- All school districts are required to identify a “dentist of record”; districts with an MDP can utilize a PHDHP to complete the screenings and sign the forms.

Which dental professionals can complete the screenings and sign the form?

	School	Dental Office	FQHC or RHC	Medical Office
Dentist	✓	✓	✓	✓
CSDH	✓	✗	✗	✗
PHDHP	✓*	✓	✓	✓
RDH/EFDA	✗	✗	✗	✗

***Not** eligible to perform mandated screenings and sign forms in schools that employ a CSDH/have a DHSP.



For more information visit the

Pennsylvania Department of Health, Division of School Health Dental Health Program [webpage](#).



School Dental Health:

What Can I Do?

Each school district submits an authorization plan for DHSP (a certified school dental hygienist (CSDH) is an employee of the school district) **or** MDP (no CSDH in the school district) by April 30th

Dental Hygiene Services Program (DHSP)

Mandated Dental Program (MDP)

“Private Dental Screening/Exam” form completed at the dental office

Can be signed by a dentist or a PHDHP

I am a **CSDH**.

I am **not a CSDH**.

I am the school **dentist** of record.

I am **the staff** of the school dentist of record.

I am a **PHDHP**.

In schools, I **can** provide:

- Clinical services
- Classroom education
- Mandated screenings and sign forms

In schools, I **can** provide:

- Clinical services
- Classroom education

In schools, I **can** provide:

- Mandated screenings and sign forms

In schools, I **can** provide:

- Clinical services
- Classroom education
- Mandated screenings and sign forms

I **cannot** provide educational or clinical services in schools. I **cannot** sign the forms at screenings held at school.

Learn more about becoming a CSDH by visiting the Pennsylvania Department of Health [webpage](#). For more general information, consult the Pennsylvania School Health Procedures: School Dental Health Program [guidelines](#).