



## Wyoming Department of Education

Dr. Jim McBride, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Hathaway Building, 2nd Floor, 2300 Capitol Avenue  
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0050

Phone 307-777-7673 Fax 307-777-6234 Website [www.k12.wy.us](http://www.k12.wy.us)

---

### MEMORANDUM NO. 2009-101

**TO:** School District Superintendents  
School Principals  
School Nurses

**FROM:** Jim McBride, Ed.D. 

**DATE:** July 31, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Oral Health Initiative

---

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION – PLEASE READ

Please share the attached letter with your staff, parents and other interested parties.

JM:rew

Attachment

July 31, 2009

Ref: GC-2009-021

Dear Superintendents, Principals, and School Nurses,

You are probably aware that the Wyoming Department of Education has been meeting with the Department of Health, Department of Family Services, and juvenile justice representatives. Our focus is the development of comprehensive wrap-around services for all students. As part of that effort, the 2009 Wyoming Legislature approved and funded an oral health survey for our students and charged the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) with that task. Assessing the oral health needs of our students will be an important part of this survey.

The WDH and the Wyoming Dental Association (WyDA) are working together to improve the oral health of Wyoming children, especially those most vulnerable. We would ask that you join us by making the third grades in your district available to participate in this survey. Dental disease is the most prevalent childhood illness, often with serious consequences, including lost class time. We realize that student contact time is valuable. We want you to know how important your assistance is in helping us gain the valuable statistics necessary to assist us in developing strategies for better dental care delivery.

Third graders are usually in the “mixed-dentention” period, having both primary and permanent teeth; surveying these children will yield the best data. Most states conducting oral health surveys usually study third-graders, so the data from our survey can then be compared to national norms. The results of this study will be provided to the school districts.

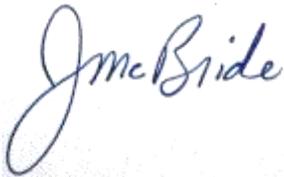
The Wyoming Dental Association will arrange for volunteer dentists from the community along with dental hygienists employed by WDH to conduct the screenings. Screenings will be conducted quickly and children will not be identified or singled out in any way and parents will be given an “opt-out” choice. This survey will be done in the early fall, and we will contact schools by early September to work out scheduling details.

If you have any question, please contact Barb DiJohn by phone 307-777-2976 or by email at [barb.dijohn@health.wyo.gov](mailto:barb.dijohn@health.wyo.gov). We appreciate you support and cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Grant Christensen" with a date "2009" at the end.

Grant Christensen, D.D.S.  
Staff Dentist

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim McBride".

Jim McBride, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randall Hancock DMD".

Randall Hancock, D.M.D.  
President, Wyoming Dental Association

GC/JM/RH/bd