



## Wyoming Department of Education

Dr. Jim McBride, Superintendent of Public Instruction

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### MEMORANDUM NO. 2009-126

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

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

**DATE:** September 4, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Oral Health Initiative

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### INFORMATION TO SHARE – PLEASE READ

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

JM:rew

Attachment

Brent D. Sherard, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.P., Director and State Health Officer

Governor Dave Freudenthal

August 28, 2009

Ref: ARC-2009-025

Dear Superintendents, Principals, and School Nurses,

You received a letter dated July 31, 2009, regarding the 2009 Wyoming Legislature/approved oral health survey that the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) will ask our students to complete. In addition, your district has been selected to participate in a Body Mass Index (BMI) component to be conducted along with the oral health survey.

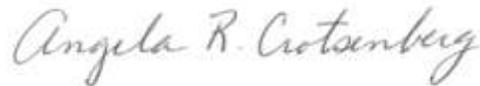
The WDH and the Wyoming Dental Association (WyDA) are working together to improve the oral health of Wyoming children, especially those most vulnerable. We would ask that you join us by making the third-graders in your district available to participate in this survey. Dental disease is the most prevalent 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 overall child health in our communities and state.

Because most states conducting oral health and BMI surveys usually study third-graders, the data from our survey can be compared to national figures. The results of this study will also be shared with school districts.

The WyDA and WDH will arrange for volunteers from the community to conduct the screenings. Screenings will be conducted quickly and efficiently, with no child being identified by name or singled out in any way, and parents will be given an "opt-out" choice for their child's participation. This survey will be done in the early to mid fall, and we will contact schools by early September to work out scheduling details. The entire process will take only a few minutes per child and will not significantly impact teaching and learning.

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

Sincerely,



Angela R. Crotzenberg, M.S., Section Chief  
Epidemiology Section  
Community and Public Health Division



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

ARC/JM/lm